Locked In

by
Franck Khalfoun

2/7/14

INT. CAR - DAY

A light rain beats on a window framing the passing suburban scenery. In the back seat, BELLE (17) watches the red and orange colors of fall blurring the varied homes of Long Island, New York.

With her jet black hair, her pale skin, dark lipstick, and sparkling blue eyes its obvious her favorite movie is *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo.*

But her head resting against the glass and her deep gaze only mirrors the sadness of falling leaves and the summer's end.

JULIET (6), her little sister, lies across the back seat sleeping innocently with her head resting on Belle's lap.

A German Shepard named LARRY sleeps at their feet.

Their mother JOAN (35) is at the wheel and looks much younger than her age.

And while the packed car suggests a long journey, the clear absence of a man says all they have is each other. Rosary beads dangle from the rear view mirror. A cross dangles at the end swaying with each turn.

Not a word is spoken. No radio. No music. Just the hum of tires against the wet asphalt and the occasional windshield wiper. Silence seems comforting to both Belle and her mother.

Belle catches sight of an ambulance in the side mirror following steadily behind them. No lights. No sirens. Just following every turn.

Back to the humming of the engine. The drizzling rain. The tires on the wet road. Belle's eyes slowly close-

EXT. BLUE SKY - DAY

There isn't a cloud in the sky. Just clear blue- when a migrating bird slowly enters the frame in extreme slow motion. It's followed by another and then another.

We slowly fall away from the bird discovering an entire flock. The side of a building comes into view. Moving faster now, the birds disappear in the distance to reveal more of the building passing by. We are falling faster and fast- starting to spin, until finally we are back in real time to catch the pavement below approaching, until-

THE SCREECHING OF TIRES!

INT. CAR - DAY

Belle is startled by-

A CROW SLAMMING INTO THE WINDSHIELD!

Joan loses control before straightening the car and coming to a full stop. Juliet jumps up from her sleep.

JOAN
Good Lord! You guys alright?

Belle does not answer while her sister and Larry stare at the mangled, bloody crow on the windshield.

JULIET
What is it?

JOAN
Mommy hit a bird, honey.

JULIET
Why?

A knock at the window. Larry jumps and barks!- One of the paramedics from the ambulance stands at the window.

PARAMEDIC
You okay there?

JOAN
Yes. I think so. It startled us more than anything. Anyway, we're almost there. It's about a mile or so up Ocean Ave.

Belle steps out of the car and walks to the front hood.

Juliet watches with fascination as Belle slowly peels the bird off the glass by a leg and tosses it off to the side of the road.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

The three girls look through the bloody windshield as they finally approach the house. It's THE AMITYVILLE HOUSE and it's just as impressive as it was when the Lutz family moved in 40 years ago.

Joan does everything she can to kill the silence.

JOAN
There it is. What do you think? It's just like I described, isn't it?

The girls look on from the back seat.

JOAN (cont'd)
Inside is a lot different.

She stops the car and turns to her daughters.

JOAN (cont'd)
Okay, so the movers did their best to put everything in its place but I need you both to give me a hand with-

Belle hardly looks at her mother before exiting the car. Larry runs out behind her.

JOAN (cont'd)
Belle?

Juliet grabs her stuffed whale and walks out behind her big sister.

JOAN (cont'd)
Be careful Juliet. You don't know the house yet.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Belle walks slowly to the house. She is drawn to it. We can see it on her face.

It's old. The paint is cracked. Water stains have marked the walls, but it's a new start.

Belle steps onto the porch revealing her little sister standing still. To her the house is large and imposing.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Belle slowly opens the front door revealing the staircase leading to the second floor.

She explores the ground floor.

Each room is furnished and full of boxes. The walls are freshly painted and picture frames rest against the walls waiting to be hung. Paneling and woodwork from different eras reminds us how long the house has been around.

Belle slowly explores the living room, then the den. The house has been cleaned up and renovated and the light colored curtains give it a tranquil vibe.

She looks down the hall to the kitchen and finally crosses over to a set of double doors. She pushes them open revealing-

A large hospital bed surrounded by hi-tech life support equipment in what used to be an old library.

Belle's explorative mood slowly changes. More serious now. A reminder of why she's here.

That's the first time we notice she's twirling A BLACK FEATHER nervously between her fingers.

She looks at a large cross nailed above the bed, when-

Suddenly she hears creaking wooden floors above. She looks to the front door. It's open.

She takes a step towards the stairs.

BELLE
Juliet?

She heads up to the second floor and walks to the first bedroom. It's a big room with a small bed, pink curtains and boxes with Juliet's name.

BELLE (cont'd)
Are you in here?

She then walks to the next room down the hall. Considerably smaller. With her bed and her boxes.

She opens one of the boxes revealing a framed picture of the entire family.

We recognize her mother, holding her little sister, and Belle who stands next to a boy about the same age wearing the same shirt the way twins often do. Their father is also in the picture. A once happy family.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

The back doors of the ambulance open revealing a patient surrounded by life support monitors-

JOSHUA (17) is the boy from the picture who now lays on the gurney sitting at a slight angle. With a respirator mask on his face, he is surrounded by equipment keeping him alive-

Joan stands at the doors carefully overseeing the paramedics' every move.

Her son's face is gaunt suggesting he's been like this for some time- Completely comatose.

The paramedics slide the gurney out releasing the wheels when one of them stops-

PARAMEDIC 2
You gotta be joking?

He's just noticed the house.

PARAMEDIC
What?

Paramedic 2 looks at Joan. He looks pale and awkward. Suddenly-

A pick-up truck arrives behind them. MICKEY (38) and his wife Candice (35) exit the car.

JULIET
Uncle Mickey!

MICKEY
June Bug!

Juliet runs into his open arms while Joan is not far behind also happy to see them.

CANDICE
Sorry we're late. How was the drive?

JOAN
Good. We just got here.

MICKEY
What's up sis? I'm glad you're back in town.

They hug. He then looks up at the house.

MICKEY (cont'd)
It's an interesting choice.

Joan throws a look of significance at him, as if to say, "Let's not discuss that."

JOAN
Thank you so much for helping.

CANDICE
Of course, honey. How are you guys holding up?

JOAN
You know.

She puts her hand on Josh's.

CANDICE
How is he?

JOAN
He's good.

Candice turns to the paramedics.

CANDICE
How are his vitals?

PARAMEDIC
Stable the whole way.

JOAN
I wish I could say the same.

Candice put her arm around her sister-in-law as they all head towards the house.

CANDICE
We should get him in. The temperature's really starting to drop.

Mickey looks up at the house with Juliet still in his arms.

MICKEY
Are you happy to move closer to us?

JULIET
Look. It's smiling. See.

He looks up at the house again.

MICKEY
Oh yeah?

It's true, somehow with its infamous quarter windows and the way the evening light hits the ground floor windows, the house looks like it's smiling and welcoming.

Candice looks back at Mickey who gives her a playful look of fear. They both know the house's history. She responds with a look of her own- Cut it out.

INT. BELLE'S ROOM - EVENING

Hidden behind the curtain of her room, Belle has watched the entire exchange.

She walks away from the window when A SINGLE FLY lands on the glass.

INT. STAIRCASE - EVENING

Belle sits at the top of the stairs watching and listening as Joshua is lifted from the gurney into his bed in the library.

Candice moves around the bed like an expert nurse.

CANDICE
I thought putting the bed by the window would make it more comfortable when it gets hot again.

PARAMEDIC
Do you need our help?

CANDICE
I'm okay. I can handle it. Joan?

JOAN
That's fine. Thank you.

The paramedics walk out of the house and Candice uncovers Joshua revealing his body- SHRIVELED WITH ATROPHY. Arms and legs skinny and close to his body, his fingers curled up. It's a scary sight to anyone who's not used to it.

At the top of the stairs, Belle watches motionless.

Candice moves around the bed, plugging wires, turning on machines, and adjusting levels.

CANDICE
I can help you about two or three times a week if you want, but I also know some great nurses.

JOAN
It's alright. We've gotten into a rhythm, you know.

CANDICE
How's Belle doing?

JOAN
It hasn't been easy.

CANDICE
She'll be fine. Give her time. They need you to be strong. They take their cues from you.

JOAN
I know.

They hug. Suddenly-

JULIET (O.S.)
Belle? Look who's here.

Juliet and Mickey stand at the bottom of the stairs startling Belle.

JULIET (cont'd)
It's uncle Mickey.

MICKEY
Hey Kido.

Joan and Candice notice Belle sitting at the top the stairs eavesdropping.

BELLE
Hey.

MICKEY
Maybe I can take you guys on the boat before it gets too cold.

BELLE
Sure. I have to unpack. Later.

She stands and walks to her room shutting the door.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Joan is saying good-bye to her brother and his wife.

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - DAY

Belle slowly approaches her brother's new room. The steady beeping of his heart monitor getting louder as she gets to the double doors. His respirator pumping steadily.

She stops in the doorway- a look of sadness in her eyes, when-

SLAM! THE FRONT DOOR SHUTS BEHIND HER JOLTING HER OUT OF HER THOUGHTS.

Joan walks past her into Josh's room.

JOAN
You should get ready for school tomorrow.

Belle walks to the stairs leaving her mother to tend to Joshua who closes the sliding doors.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL- HALLWAY - MORNING

Belle is accompanied by an administrator down an empty hall lined with lockers.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Belle stands by the door with the entire class staring at her. The black feather now braided into her hair.

A couple in the back giggle in her direction.

The administrator talks into the ear of the teacher sitting in her seat.

TEACHER
Yes, of course.

The administrator leaves.

TEACHER (cont'd)
Please have a seat Miss Bergoff and you can use my textbook for now.

Belle takes the book and sits in the back of the class-

Everyone tracks Belle back to her seat. A pigeon-chested nerd with wire-frame glasses is making long and awkward eye-contact before finally, by way of explanation--

NERD
(off Belle's textbook)
Your book has all the answers.

Belle clocks the teacher's book, which indeed does have all the answers in red.

OFF THE REST OF THE CLASS STARING AT HER--

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

The cafeteria is full except for one table where Belle sits alone squashing her food with a fork.

The same black-clad nerd approaches.

He sets his food right next to Belle who doesn't look up.

BELLE
Really?

He freezes. Me?

BELLE (cont'd)
You don't think it's a bit of a cliche?

He is taken aback.

BELLE (cont'd)
You sitting here with me? Can't you hear them? "Oh look, it's the Adams Family reunion."

He smiles. She's pretty funny. Belles still hasn't looked up.

BELLE (cont'd)
Did you like being abused as a child? Seriously. It's my first day.

The Nerd takes his tray and walks away. Belle looks up for the first time. She might have been a bit harsh.

JOAN (O.S.)
Heavenly Father bless our new home and watch over us-

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Joan and Juliet hold hands in prayer at the kitchen while Belle sits silently defiant.

JOAN
As we become a part of this community. Bless this food and the nourishment of our body in the name of the father the son and the holy spirit, Amen.

Joan serves.

JULIET
I already have three friends at school and they said I have beautiful hair.

JOAN
Well you do, and they are very lucky to have you as a friend. What about you, Belle. How was your day?

BELLE
Peachy.

JOAN
Did you make some friends?

BELLE
Oh yeah. Someone already asked me to the prom.

JOAN
Really?

Belle just rolls her eyes. Joan sees it.

JOAN (cont'd)
Please do not be so rude.

BELLE
You drag us out here away from all our friends supposedly to save money, yet we end up in a house three times as big as the old one? I don't get it.

Joan takes a beat before replying calmly-

JOAN
Well believe it or not we actually save money.
(MORE)

JOAN (cont'd)
We were paying extortionate rent in Yonkers. This house is an investment. And we are closer to a great hospital. Anyway it's a decision-

Belle finishes her sentence.

BELLE
You made for the good of the family. I know. Another great decision on your part.

Her last comment is loaded. We don't yet know why- but it's a tense subject.

Joan gets up annoyed taking a platter from the stove.

JOAN
You know very well we didn't have a choice.

All of a sudden, Larry starts barking and runs to the screen door.

BELLE
We?

JOAN
(To the dog)
Quiet boy. Maybe you can't make any friends because they know.

BELLE
Know what, Mom? Nobody knows anything out here unless you told them.
(to the dog)
Shut up, Larry!

JOAN
That's not exactly true, is it? Josh knows- and so does God.

BELLE
Josh is gone, Mom. And I could give a shit about God.

Joan slams her hand on the kitchen table making Juliet jump-

JOAN
THAT'S ENOUGH!

Belle walks out of the kitchen door releasing the barking dog.

EXT. HOUSE. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Belle follows Larry into the yard as he continues to bark.

It’s the first time we discover the backyard. It’s wide and dark.

She walks past a pool- out of service- and covered with a plastic tarp and leaves.

She can see the dog barking at the door of a lonely boat house lit by a single bulb.

She walks through a wide grassy area passing a large tree on her way to the dark lake and the boat house. She stops and finally calms her nerves from the argument.

Larry continues barking at the door as Belle arrives.

BELLE
What’s the matter? You see something?

She opens the door and the dog runs inside still barking.

Belle is more cautious. Looking inside first.

INT. BOATHOUSE - NIGHT

The other end of the boathouse is open to the lake and the only source of light comes from the moon reflecting against the water.

BELLE
Hello?

She looks for a light switch inside. Can’t find it. She takes another step.

From the wooden dock, Larry directs his barking to the water.

Belle pats around until she finally finds a string floating in the air. She pulls it but it doesn’t work.

Suddenly, Larry stops barking and raises his head to listens. He then runs out leaving Belle alone in the dark.

BELLE (cont’d)
Thanks, Larry.

Without her dog she is not as confident. She leans over the dock and looks down into the water- nothing.

EXT. HOUSE. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Larry trots around the house and Belle follows.

The side of the house is dark and the cool evening breeze gives her a slight chill.

She makes her way to a light coming from inside- Joshua's room.

Belle slowly approaches the window until she can see her mother kneeling down beside Josh's bed- PRAYING. This too gives her a slight chill.

INT. BELLE'S ROOM - EVENING

A biology book is opened to a page with a diagram illustrating the brain connected to the nervous system, when-

She hears water running in the bathroom.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - EVENING

Belle steps out of her room and looks down the hallway. She hears the sounds of a cartoon coming from the lower floor.

She looks in her sister's room and walks by the bathroom door- water running- her mother showering.

INT. JOAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Belle steps inside her mother's room- looks around before walking to her night table.

She opens the drawer- a copy of *Paradise Lost* and-

Pill bottles- Belle grabs one, opens it, and pops a pill in her mouth.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Juliet sits on the couch watching a cartoon with Larry next to her. Belle passes behind them unnoticed.

She looks at Josh's double doors down the hall.

She slowly opens the doors. She can hear the low beeping of the life support system.

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - EVENING

Belle slowly approaches her brother's bed.

A corner lamp provides the only source of light and creates a somber mood only partially lighting his face.

His face is almost skeletal, his crusty lips slightly opened and covered by a transparent, rubber respirator mask.

Belle is suddenly flooded with emotions and tears stream down her face.

Apparently she's been holding it in. Finally she leans into him and kisses him tenderly on the forehead.

BELLE
(whispering)
I miss talking to you. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

She rests her forehead on his not noticing-

JOSHUA'S TWISTED PINKY TWITCHES TO LIFE.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

A car drives through a puddle as Belle walks to school early in the morning.

Another car passes and comes to a sudden stop just ahead. She looks at it until the Nerd sticks his head out of the passenger window.

THE NERD
Wanna ride?

She raises her eyebrows and gives him the finger.

THE NERD (cont'd)
That's cool. Only two more miles to go.

THE NERD smiles and the car drives off.

EXT. SCHOOL ATHLETIC FIELD - DAY

A group of teenagers surround Belle and another girl fighting in the dirt.

A security guard breaks it up pulling Belle off the girl.

INT. HOUSE - EVENING

Belle enters the house walking straight up the stairs.

Joan is changing Josh's drip packs when she notices Belle's face.

JOAN
Belle? What Happened?

But Belle is already in her room.

INT. BELLE'S ROOM - NIGHT

A fly comes to rest on a lamp- A towel smashes the lamp!

Belle wears headphones and takes a couple more swings until she finally nails it.

BELLE
Eat shit.

She sits on her bed, next to the open biology book and picks up her phone to text.

She types and mouths-

BELLE (cont'd)
This... Place... Blows...

When suddenly she looks up- Removes one ear bud- Listens.

She removes the other ear bud before finally turning off the music- Definitely hears something- Voices- Whispering.

She puts the book down and slowly stands. She looks out the window. Darkness.

She approaches the heater vent on the floor. Slowly bends down to listen. She faces the cast iron grill. The darkness filled with whispers.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

She opens the bedroom door and looks outside. This time the hallway is dark.

It's also freezing. She blows hot breath into her hands-

Flips the light switch but nothing happens.

BELLE
Really blows.

She heads out anyway. What she hears next makes her stop in her tracks- Giggling then more whispering.

INT. STAIRCASE - NIGHT

Belle hits the light switch in the staircase. The lights flicker on- unstable and weak.

She heads down the stairs. The house is silent again.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Belle pads through the downstairs. She hits more light switches, but only half of them work.

She looks down the hallway which fades into darkness.

The living room is quiet and the TV is off.

A breeze sweeps across the room. She notices the windows are open.

She walks to the open windows. The wind blows into the house- it sounds like whispering-

Outside, she can see the boat house in the distance. Again, the door is open, catching her attention- Someone there?

After a beat, she closes the window when-

A GHOSTLY SHAPE IN A WHITE DRESS APPEARS IN A REFLECTION!

TERRIFIED, SHE TURNS TO FIND- HER LITTLE SISTER STANDING IN THE DOORWAY HOLDING HER STUFFY.

BELLE
Juliet?! You scared the shi-- You scared me really bad. What are you doing up?

JULIET
I just wanted to talk to Josh.

BELLE
What? Sweetie you know that's not possible anymore.

JULIET
But Mommy says he's going to get better.

BELLE
Okay, come on. Let's go back to bed.

She takes her sister's hand and leads her back up the stairs.

JULIET
Mommy says if we pray God will make everything better.

BELLE
I know, but sometimes people say things because they are really sad. Especially Mommies.

INT. JULIET'S ROOM - NIGHT

Belle puts her sister back in bed and tucks her in.

JULIET
But Josh is already talking to me.

She sits next to her on the bed.

BELLE
He will always be there for you, in your heart. He talks to me too.

Juliet looks up at Belle who caresses her face.

JULIET
Does he say bad words?

BELLE
What? No, baby. What bad words?

Juliet is not sure she should say. Confused, Belle does her best to comfort her sister.

BELLE (cont'd)
It's Okay. I guess you better not repeat them, right?

She kisses her forehead.

BELLE (cont'd)
Now go to sleep and I'll see you in the morning.

JULIET
Is it your fault that he is sick?

This stops Belle in her tracks.

BELLE
Did Mommy tell you that?

Juliet shakes her head no.

BELLE (cont'd)
Then who told you that? It's okay to tell me.

Juliet squeezes her stuffy. She looks scared now.

BELLE (cont'd)
Did Josh tell you that?

Juliet slowly nods yes-

Belle is trying to understand, when-

SUDDENLY- AN ALARM PEELS THROUGH THE HOUSE! A HIGH PITCHED BEEPING SOUND.

Belle and Juliet both turn to the doorway-

Joan appears from her room. She looks at the girls and runs down the hall.

Belle stands to follow her mother.

BELLE (cont'd)
(to Juliet)
Stay here.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Belle walks down the stairs looking into Josh's bedroom where Joan moves around the bed frantically-

Belle approaches the room watching in anticipation as-

Joan inserts a syringe into a clear vile transferring the liquid- The beeping getting even faster.

His heart rate monitor reads 220bpm and climbing.

JOAN
I've got to a sedate him.

Joan inserts the needle into Josh's shoulder.

JOAN (cont'd)
It's Okay, baby. It's Okay.

But it's as if the medicine has the reverse effect.

JOAN (cont'd)
Joshua. Please God. Help me.

Josh's heart rate is still climbing- 240, 250...

Juliet comes down the stairs and takes a hold of Belle's hand. Both watching what seems inevitable.

THE SOUND OF HIS LIFE SUPPORT FLAT LINING.

JOAN (cont'd)
No! Please no.

She puts her ear to his mouth.

JOAN (cont'd)
He's not breathing. Don't do this to me.

She starts pressing on his chest and blowing in his mouth desperately trying to resuscitate him. But the flat line persists.

Belle and Juliet approach, Juliet clinging to her sister.

Belle puts her hand on her mother's shoulder.

BELLE
Mom. It's over. Let him-

But Joan turns with hatred in her eyes.

JOAN
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT ISN'T IT?!

BELLE
It's what God would want.

Joan slaps Belle across the face when-

JULIET SCREAMS AT THE TOP OF HER LUNGS WHILE POINTING HER FINGER.

JULIET
STOP! Look.

They slowly turn to find-

JOSHUA'S EYES WIDE OPEN, AND HIS MOUTH AGAPE!

They stare as he remains motionless- Just noticing that his heartbeat has returned to normal.

JOAN
Oh my God! Joshua! Oh my God!

Belle is dumbfounded as her mother runs to his side.

JOAN (cont'd)
Josh, can you hear me? It's Mom.

Belle watches has Joan waves her hand in his face. But he stares straight in front of him-

HIS EYES STILL BULGING WITH A LOOK- OF FEAR.

JOAN (cont'd)
He's gonna be alright. Thank you God.

Belle and Juliet watch in awe.

BELLE BACKS OUT OF THE ROOM, UNABLE TO TAKE HER EYES FROM HER BROTHER'S FACE- MOUTH AGAPE- FROZEN IN FEAR!!

Joan closes the door leaving Belle and Juliet in the dark hallway. Belle is in shock as she listens to her mother repeating the same thing over and over behind the door-

JOAN (O.S.) (cont'd)
Oh Lord. Thank you Lord. Thank you Jesus. Thank you Lord...

The girls climbs the stairs-

JOAN (O.S.) (cont'd)
Thank you Lord. Thank you Jesus. Thank you Lord...

EXT. HOUSE - MORNING

It's a grey, cloudy morning and the leaves have started to turn. Winter approaches.

INT. HOUSE. STAIRCASE - MORNING

Belle walks down the stairs and past Josh's room.

She looks inside- His eyes are closed. His heartbeat steady. Back to normal.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Juliet eats breakfast as Joan stands at the stove cooking a a bigger meal than usual. Her mother is upbeat.

JOAN
You slept late.

BELLE
It smells good. How is he?

JOAN
Resting. Sit. Eat something.

Belle looks at her mom who hasn't been this full of life in a long time.

JULIET
Mommy says Josh is getting better.

Belle smiles and sits down as Joan gives her a plate of eggs, sausages and flapjacks.

Belle pours syrup all over the food and devours it.

Juliet follows and Joan watches content as her children eat with more appetite than they have in a long time.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Belle walks to school when-

The Nerd's car arrives behind the bus. He sticks out his head again. Relentless.

THE NERD
(faux-suave)
We have to stop meeting this way.
(beat)
I'm Terrence.

IT. TERENCE'S MOM'S CAR - MORNING

Belle and Terence sit in the backseat in silence. Terence's mother drives quietly.

TERRENCE
(whispering)
It's not cause of how you dress that they're messing with you. You know that, right?

BELLE
Who cares.

They continue driving to school quietly. Belle is curious.

BELLE (cont'd)
Okay, I'll bite. Why then?

Terrence smiles and leans to the front seat to talk to his mother.

TERRENCE
Belle just moved here, mom.

TERRENCE'S MOM
That's nice. Welcome. Where from?

BELLE
West Yonkers.

TERRENCE'S MOM
Well that's not so far away.

BELLE
Far enough.

TERRENCE
Belle and her family moved into the house.

TERRENCE'S MOM
Oh yes? Which house?

Belle turns to him with intrigue.

TERRENCE
You know. <u>The</u> house.

His mother looks in the rear view mirror.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

The car comes to a screeching halt. Belle and Terrence exit.

As his mom drives away and Terrence finds it hilarious.

TERRENCE
My mom's a total Jesus freak.

BELLE
So's mine but what was <u>that</u> about?

TERRENCE
You're kidding me, right? 1974? Amityville? Your frickin' house?

She really doesn't know. He starts walking-

TERRENCE (cont'd)
(excitedly)
Oh, <u>man!</u>

She watches him walk before following.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

A spoon of Chicken Chow Mein flops down on a plate.

It's handed to Belle who moves in line with Terrence in tow.

BELLE
I can't believe it.

TERRENCE
(Whispering)
Sick shit, right? He graduated from this school in 1974. But instead of going to college he moved into your basement. Something in that house made him crazy and twenty eight days later is when he killed them. The whole family. Six people. Shot the little kids too. The house has barely been occupied since then.

They sit at a table.

TERRENCE (cont'd)
And so now you show up looking like You're a member of Sisters of Mercy.

Other kids move away chuckling.

BELLE
That's how my mom could afford it.

TERRENCE
Let's Zillow it.

BELLE
I bet you're loving this.

Terrence notices other kids laughing at them.

TERRENCE
Oh sure, I love walking around here like I'm a leper. Best years of our lives, right?

She cracks a smile. He's growing on her.

BELLE
Anyway that was 40 years ago.

TERRENCE
Exactly. That's why my mother freaked out.

She doesn't get it.

TERRENCE (cont'd)
(Whispering)
So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: And the land had rest forty years. Judges 5:31.

BELLE
The fact you know that by heart, is what's creepy.

TERRENCE
I don't. I wrote it on my hand. For effect.

He turns his palm up to show her.

BELLE
Anyway. I'm not superstitious.

He eats his food.

TERRENCE
I won't tell my mom you called the Bible "superstition" if you don't tell your Mom about this--

He reaches into his book bag and pulls out a VHS tape of the original *Amityville Horror*.

TERRENCE (cont'd)
Recognize that house?

Belle gets a chill. She picks it up. Stares at a picture of her house photo-shopped into a scary movie poster.

CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

A SERIES OF GRUESOME CRIME PHOTOS- THE DEFEO MURDERS.

A SERIES OF OLD NEWS FOOTAGE.

NEWSCASTER
Six members of the DeFeo family were found murdered in their beds. Fearing a mob connection, the only survivor, Ronnie DeFeo JR. was placed in Protective custody.

A SERIES OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES-

POLICE BAFFLED. EVIDENCE FOUND IN DEFEO HOUSE. SON BECOMES NUMBER ONE SUSPECT.

NEWSCASTER (cont'd)
After denying any involvement, Ronnie DeFeo stunned the court room with an outburst. He stood up and shouted quote "I killed them, I killed them all in self defense.

More footage of Ronnie in handcuffs being driven away in a police car.

NEWSCASTER (cont'd)
A judge has sentenced Ronnie DeFeo to six consecutive life sentences.

1974 Footage of the press converging on the Amityville House. Belle's house.

NEWSCASTER (cont'd)
During the sentencing, the Judge stated, "I believe to be in the presence of pure evil."

Belle sits back in her seat having digested all the information from a computer screen. Visibly disturbed.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Belle walks home to find the driveway filled with extra cars. The house looks (oddly) a bit more like the videobox. More sinister.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Belle enters the house where she hears people talking in the living room.

She turns the corner to find Candice, Uncle Mickey and DR. MILTON (60), talking with her mother.

JOAN
Belle. You remember Doctor Milton?

DR. MILTON
Hello, Belle. How are you doing?

Belle smiles curious.

CUT TO:

They all sit in the living room- Belle eyeing her mother- Still thinking about what she read in the library.

DR. MILTON (cont'd)
Even though Joshua's opened his eyes, this doesn't mean he's conscious.

CANDICE
Is he in persistent vegetative state?

DR. MILTON
It can only be classified as persistent if his condition remains the same for about four weeks.

JOAN
This is an improvement right?

DR. MILTON
A persistent vegetative state is very rarely reversible.

JOAN
That's what you said about the coma.

DR. MILTON
Not exactly. What I said was at best he could reach this stage of partial synaptic arousal, or that by some miracle, he could find himself in minimally conscious state. But the odds of him regaining any kind of real consciousness are, well, for all practical purposes, zero.

JOAN
But if the Lord can bring him this far, maybe He can take Josh further.

Everyone in the room knows she is in complete denial including Belle who can no longer hold her tongue.

BELLE
You still refuse to listen to anything he says.

JOAN
If I had listened then my son would be dead and we wouldn't have witnessed what we did. It's progress, right?

DR. MILTON
I can't tell you that. As far as I know, there are no documented cases of anyone with Josh's injury sustaining anything like a full recovery of any real motor skills.

JOAN
Is <u>this</u> progress?!

BELLE
Even if it is. Even if by some "miracle" he does become conscious, you think he'll want to live completely paralyzed. Josh wouldn't want that.

JOAN
Of course he would. He's a fighter.

Belle holds her tongue-

CANDICE
Well I guess the real point here is that we'll never know what Josh wants. Or even if there is a Josh in there to "want" anything.

DR. MILTON
That's why I think we should try one last fMRI in light of this new reflexive activity. That'll answer at least those questions.

JOAN
Thank you.

Belle is exasperated.

BELLE
Great. Any other tests we can run while we're at it?!

She walks out of the living room. Milton follows her into--

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Milton catches up.

DR. MILTON
Belle--

She turns.

DR. MILTON (cont'd)
This test will tell your mother what you and I already know.

BELLE
(pointing toward Josh's room)
Look at him! What more does she need?!

DR. MILTON
Trust me. It will help your mother say goodbye.

Belle seems to acquiesce. She keeps moving toward--

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Just outside of his room, she hears VOICES. It's--

JULIET (O.S.)
Mommy says that you are so brave.

Belle looks inside the room where Juliet stands in front of his bed.

BELLE
Who are you talking to?

No one in the room but Josh.

JULIET
Josh says he misses talking to you too.

Belle is stunned. How could she know? She looks back at Dr. Milton, returning to Joan and Candice. Then back at her sister.

INT. BELLE'S ROOM - NIGHT

A buzzing sound. A fly.

Belle wakes up as it flies around her head. She swats at it and turns on her pillow to find-a small larva.

She looks more closely-it squirms. A fly emerges, buzzing around her face. Then another.

She turns back around, only to find- HER BED COVERED IN TWITCHING LARVAE.

THE FLIES SWARM HER, INFESTING EVERY ORIFICE AS SHE SCREAMS AND STANDS FROM HER BED.

The room is now full of swarming flies- she runs out of her room.

INT. HOUSE- UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Her vision blurred and darkened from the fly infestation, she runs into the hallway where she spots-

A MAN HOLDING A SHOTGUN STANDING AT JULIET'S DOOR- VISIONS OF RONNIE DEFEO IN 1974. HE SCREAMS-

RONNIE
NOOOO!

BOOM! BOOM! Shotgun explodes inside the room as he watches. That's when he raises his gun and enters the room!

BOOM! MORE GUN FLASHES!

JULIET (O.S.)
Belle?!

CUT TO:

INT. BELLE'S ROOM - MORNING

JULIET
Wake up! Belle?!

Belle gasps for air as she wakes up from a dream.

Juliet stands above her in tears.

JULIET (cont'd)
Wake up. You were laying like Josh, Belle. You weren't moving and I couldn't wake you.

She hugs her older sister who wakes up in a complete daze.

BELLE
It's okay sweetie. I was just sleeping. I'm okay.

She sits up and listens to voices coming from downstairs.

BELLE (cont'd)
Who's here?

Juliet turn towards the open bedroom door- Shrugs her shoulders-

VOICE(O.S.)
"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

INT. HOUSE - MORNING

Belle stands at the top of the stairs watching A PRIEST (60) placing a stole over his neck- He then removes an aspergillum filled with holy water, and his bible from his bag.

JOAN
You know what they say, faith can move mountains.

PRIEST
Amen.

JOAN
Perhaps you can get started with Joshua's room.

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - DAY

Joan and the priest walk through Josh's double doors.

JOAN
Josh, this is father O'Brien. He's here to Bless the house.

PRIEST
Hello Josh.

She pats her son's hand. There's an awkward silence.

JOAN
Can I get you something to drink? Coffee?

He shakes his head-

JOAN (cont'd)
Alright, I'll let you to it.

INT. HOUSE - MORNING

From the stairs, Belle watches Joan exit the room leaving the priest alone with Josh- It's awkward.

He opens his bible and splashes holy water around the room.

PRIEST
O heavenly Father, Almighty God, we humbly beseech Thee to bless and sanctify this house...

He clears his throat- Something stuck in it- His mouth dry-

PRIEST (cont'd)
... and all who dwell therein, and do Thou vouchsafe to fill it with all good things; grant to them, O Lord...

Belle slowly makes her way down the stairs carrying her backpack.

PRIEST (cont'd)
O Lord bless and sanctify this house as Thou didst deign to bless the house of Abraham...

He continues to splash holy water around the room as he coughs trying to catch his breath-

He doesn't notice Belle sneaking out of the house.

PRIEST (cont'd)
...Of Isaac, and of Jacob; and may the angels of Thy light, dwelling within the walk of this house...

He turns towards Josh and splashes holy water on his arm by accident-

PRIEST (cont'd)
Oh, I'm sorry. I-

He freezes as he tries to understand what he sees next-

PRIEST (cont'd)
(under his breath)
Protect it and those who dwell there in-

The Holy water is burning in to Josh's arm like acid-

PRIEST (cont'd)
Through Christ our Lord...

The clergyman is in awe. He staring at Josh. We don't see what he sees, but the priest looks terrified as a shadow casts over his face-

PRIEST (cont'd)
Oh my god-

EXT. HOUSE - MORNING

Belle walks down the sidewalk on her way to school.

She turns to look back at the house when she notices-

THE PRIEST STANDING AT JOSH'S WINDOW LOOKING AT HER TERRIFIED!

Just then- a van drives by blocking her view. A second later, THE WINDOW IS EMPTY. What was that?!

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Belle exits the school and walks by herself before being joined by Terrence and another red headed emo, MARISSA (17).

TERRENCE
Hey, didn't mean to freak you out last time.

BELLE
You didn't.

TERRENCE
This is Marissa. She's my girlfriend.

Marissa slaps him.

MARISSA
You wish.

TERRENCE
This is my friend, Belle.

BELLE
You wish.

TERRENCE
Terrence is getting all kinds of love, today. Anyway, Marissa didn't believe me when I told her I knew you and she wanted to meet you.

MARISSA
What's up.

BELLE
Hey.

An immediate attraction-

TERRENCE
Yes. Facebook my ass.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Marissa, Belle, and Terrence walk and talk.

MARISSA
Anybody who doesn't think it's bullshit is an idiot, right?

TERRENCE
I don't know, there's a whole documentary about the guy who lived in the house as a kid and he said it was pretty evil.

Marissa points to Terrence.

MARISSA
Case in point.

BELLE
Anyway, my family's got other demons to deal with.

MARISSA
You know what we should do?

They both look to her. What?

MARISSA (cont'd)
We should watch the movie.

TERRENCE
That was my idea.

MARISSA
(To Belle)
See what the house is like at night.

BELLE
It's not the house I'm worried about.

TERRENCE
(to Belle)
I told her that's what we should do.

The girls ignore him.

MARISSA
Put this thing to rest once in for all-
(to Terrence)
Can we borrow the movie?

Terrence realizes he's getting cut out.

TERRENCE
What? No. I'm coming too. It was my idea.

MARISSA
What do you say? Should we do it?

A bit of peer pressure and-

BELLE
Sure.

TERRENCE
Cool. But we have to do it at 3:15 AM.

BELLE
Why?

Terrence smiles at Marissa. Now he's got her attention.

MARISSA
Tell us.

TERRENCE
Because that's the time Ronnie Defeo murdered his entire family and when the house comes alive.

Even though they try to hide it, concern comes across the girls' faces.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

It's late in the night. The house is quiet except for the rattling of the old heating pipes.

Staircase. Living Room. Kitchen. All quiet.

INT. JOAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Joan is asleep wearing a sleeping mask, when her breathing accelerates.

She smiles with pleasure- moans. Her breathing heavier.

He hand caresses her pillow- her legs caressing the sheets. She's dreaming and it's stimulating her sexually.

The bed sways gently with her every move- slightly squeaking- back and forth-

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Joshua sleeps on the edge of darkness- His heartbeat steady. We approach. Closer and closer up to his face.

His mouth slightly open behind his respirator mask emits a low guttural breathing sound from somewhere deep in his body. We approach slightly more. The sound more pronounced. Deeper. Then-

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

A glass fills with water when the pouring stops- Lit by the open refrigerator, Belle listens to the strange squeaking coming from upstairs- What is that?

Then she hears another noise coming from behind the refrigerator door. She slowly pulls the door closing it, revealing- Larry the dog!

BELLE
Shit, Larry. You scared me.

He turns to the kitchen door looking through the glass panes and growls.

BELLE (cont'd)
Shhh... You see something?

Outside, she can see the single light bulb of the boat house.

She walks to the kitchen door to get a better look. Nothing but the night. She takes a drink from the glass when- BOOM!

A HORRIFIC FACE OF A BLOODIED DECOMPOSED PIG WITH RED BEADY EYES SLAMS AGAINST THE WINDOW!

LARRY JUMPS AT THE WINDOW BARKING FURIOUSLY!

Belle screams and jumps back dropping the glass on the floor.

Behind the pig, Terrence appears laughing hysterically.

BELLE (cont'd)
Quiet, Larry. Quiet.

Marissa steps up to the back porch. Belle gathers herself and opens the door.

The dog growls at the intruders-

BELLE (cont'd)
Shut up.

She pushes him out the door.

BELLE (cont'd)
Go outside and take a piss.

MARISSA
(Entering)
I told them not to do it.

TERRENCE
You should've seen your face.

The guy wearing the mask reveals himself- Heavy set, baby face, Lloyd (16).

MARISSA
You two are such dicks.

TERRENCE
This is Lloyd. He hasn't seen the movie either.

BELLE
You seriously need to be quiet. You don't want to wake up my mother. Believe me.

TERRENCE
Yeah. Shut the fuck up, Marissa.

He tries to enter but Belle blocks him.

BELLE
And if you want to come in, you need to clean this shit up.

TERRENCE
(pointing to the glass)
Yeah Lloyd, clean shit up.

The girls walk away leaving Terrence with Lloyd in the kitchen doorway, but-

Lloyd is frozen looking straight into the house.

TERRENCE (cont'd)
Hey, wait up.

Lloyd can't move. Just staring straight ahead.

TERRENCE (cont'd)
Lloyd? What the fuck?

He's almost shaking now- about to go into convulsions.

TERRENCE (cont'd)
What is it dude? Dude? You're starting to freak me out.

Lloyd's eyes get bigger and bigger until-

He finally breathes with a big smile on his face.

LLOYD
You clean it up, Dick.

He walks past Terrence leaving him shaken and annoyed.

INT. HOUSE- LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Belle and Marissa sit together on the couch with Lloyd on the other end.

Terrence holds up some DVDs.

TERRENCE
Okay, so I brought three DVDs. The original made in 1979 staring James Brolin and Margot Kidder. Then there's Amityville Horror 2, which is actually a prequel, then there's the remake with...

LLOYD
No freaking way.

MARISSA
Remakes totally blow.

Marissa turns to Belle who shrugs.

TERRENCE
Agreed. The original it is.

He opens the DVD box and slides it into the player.

TERRENCE (cont'd)
How about we go boy girl boy girl.

MARISSA
In your dreams.

LLOYD
How about top bottom top bottom?

She gives him the finger.

CUT TO:

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - NIGHT

From Josh's room, someone watches the kids sitting on the couch.

They're at the part of the movie were Brolin and Kidder make love.

Whoever's watching focuses on the girls as Marissa rests her head on Belle's shoulder.

INT. HOUSE- LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Back on the couch, Marissa slides her hand on Belle's thigh.

Belle does nothing. No reaction. Terrence sees it, when-

In the movie, a clock flips to 3:15 and Brolin is scared by a vision of a murdered child- The kids jump!

Lloyd laughs when suddenly, THE TV TURNS OFF ALONG WITH ALL THE LIGHTS.

They freeze as the house is plunged into darkness.

Belle sits up and immediately turns to her brother's room.

BELLE
(to Lloyd)
Seriously?!

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Something moves in the shadows as Josh's emergency power pack turns on keeping all of his equipment running.

LLOYD (O.S.)
That wasn't me.

BELLE
I hope not, for your sake. My brother's life support apparatus only has a 4-hour emergency battery.

INT. HOUSE- LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Back in the living room Terrence is looking at his watch.

MARISSA
What wrong with your brother?

BELLE
He’s on life support.

Lloyd looks really uncomfortable now.

TERRENCE
Holy shit.

They turn to him.

TERRENCE (cont’d)
It’s 3:15 on the dot.

MARISSA
Shut up. You’re doing it on purpose.

TERRENCE
I swear. I’m not.

LLOYD
Fuck. You guys are fucking with me.

Lloyd looks really uncomfortable while Belle is more concerned.

TERRENCE
I’m sure it’s just a fuse.

BELLE
Well if we don’t fix it I gotta wake up my mom.

MARISSA
Ok, where’s the fuse box?

TERRENCE
Duh. In the basement.

LLOYD
Huh, maybe we should just go. It’s getting late.

MARISSA
It’s <u>been</u> late, dweeb. Anyway you want to leave her in the dark?

Terrence turns on the flashlight on his phone.

TERRENCE
Where’s the basement?

Someone is still watching them from Josh’s room as they walk past the doors.

MARISSA
(to Belle)
What happened to him?

Lloyd tries to look inside Josh's room but sees nothing. He looks up on the wall and-

THE CROSS IS NOW UPSIDE DOWN-

BELLE
It's a long messed up story.

They get to the basement door. Belle opens it. It creaks.

TERRENCE
Nice.

They look down into the darkness. The phone light is not strong enough to see the bottom.

LLOYD
I'm not going down there.

BELLE
Just be quiet.

Belle turns on her phone light and heads down the stairs. Marissa follows. Then Terrence.

Lloyd takes a few steps but retreats.

LLOYD
(whispering)
I think I'll just wait right here.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Belle reaches the basement first. She scans her light across floating dust -

At the far wall a dirty basement window shines with moonlight.

TERRENCE
Apparently, the source of the evil is in this basement.

MARISSA
Can you not do this right now?

TERRENCE
I thought you didn't believe this stuff?

BELLE
What's that smell?

Old boxes, furniture covered with sheets, rusted tool, old washer dryer, an old couch, and just a bunch of random stuff spread about.

MARISSA
What are we looking for?

Terrence goes one way while Belle goes the other.

TERRENCE
A metal box with a small door.

Marissa follows Belle. They each scan the walls separately.

TERRENCE (cont'd)
And George Lutz couldn't get warm so he moved down here to be close to that boiler.

MARISSA
Who's that?

TERRENCE
It's the character from the movie you were just watching. His family moved in like a year after the murders and the house started making them crazy.

He moves his light along the walls until he finds the boiler.

TERRENCE (cont'd)
His dog kept barking at one of these walls and he discovered the infamous red room. The source of evil.

BELLE
Why was it red?

TERRENCE
I think it was suppose to have been painted with the blood of dead Indians.

Marissa is trying to stay cool.

MARISSA
That's just great.

TERRENCE
The closer you get to the red room, the more homicidal you become.

MARISSA
Nice. It's like evil wi-fi.

Belle lights an old dusty box with clothing. Marissa lifts up a pair of bell bottoms-

MARISSA (cont'd)
Wow. You think this belonged to them?

TERRENCE
28 days after Lutz and his family moved in they ran away and left everything behind.
(he stops)
Ebay, anyone?

The girls walk over to him to see- The old sign from the front yard, "High Hopes"- has been changed to "High Ropes".

When suddenly, A SHADOW MOVES ACROSS THE ROOM BEHIND THEM. MARISSA SPINS.

MARISSA
Did you see that?

TERRENCE
Lloyd?

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Lloyd is still standing by the basement door afraid to move staring straight down the hall at-

Josh's double doors. Waiting. As if they were going to move.

LLOYD
(whispering)
Come on guys.

He turns to the dark basement, when-

Something or someone moves behind him too- He turns.

LLOYD (cont'd)
Hello?

Nothing. He looks towards Josh's double doors. Are they slightly more open?

LLOYD (cont'd)
Come on guys.

There's a noise to his left.

LLOYD (cont'd)
Hey! I see you. Stop messing around.

He looks into the dark house. Something is moving. Can't be sure.

LLOYD (cont'd)
Who's there?

He can see someone's outline. Moving slowly.

LLOYD (cont'd)
Who is that?

His eyes get wider. His heartbeat accelerates. This time it's for real- standing before him-

LLOYD (cont'd)
Jesus.

HE BACKS AWAY. WE CAN'T SEE WHAT IT IS BUT LLOYD IS SCARED. HE BUMPS A LAMP SENDING IT CRASHING TO THE GROUND. HE TRIPS AND FALLS WITH IT AND SCURRIES OUT OF THE HOUSE.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Belle scans the walls for the fuse box when they hear the noise upstairs.

BELLE
What the hell's he doing? He's gonna wake up the whole house.

MARISSA
There's something down here.

BELLE
I think this is it.

Terrence joins her and opens the metal fuse box.

TERRENCE
Shit, these are ancient.

BELLE
Can you fix it?

TERRENCE
I think you unscrew them.

He twists the old fuse out to look at it in the light of his phone.

Belle shines her light on Marissa who is staring out into the dark basement.

MARISSA
I'm telling you there's something down here.

BELLE
Just hurry.

Terrence unscrews another fuse. He places it in the vacant hole. Starts screwing.

MARISSA
Something's wrong. I can feel it.

Terrence continues to turn.

Belle and Marissa staring into the dark. Marissa grabs her hand.

The fuse sparks when- ALL THE LIGHTS COME ON, REVEALING-

JOAN STANDING IN FRONT OF THEM LOOKING CRAZY!!

The girls scream.

JOAN
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE?!

She notices the girls holding hands. They let go.

JOAN (cont'd)
What are you doing in my house?

They're all stunned- Belle breaks the silence-

BELLE
I live here too, you know.

MARISSA
(to Joan)
Hi. I'm Marissa.

But Joan is not in the mood.

TERRENCE
I gotta get home.

MARISSA
Later, Belle.
(to Joan)
Sorry about that.

They run back up the stairs.

JOAN
You could at least have the decency of keeping people out of Josh's room.

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Belle follows Joan into Josh's room.

BELLE
We didn't go in his room. We were just watching-

She sees- JOSH LAYING UNCOVERED ON HIS BED!

JOAN
Well who took off his blanket then? He's not some side show attraction.

Joan picks up his blanket and covers his body.

She then walks past Belle who looks at her brother laying still as always. How did that happen?

A school bell rings.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Belle walks out of school with other students when she hears someone calling her name.

CANDICE
Belle?

Belle walks over to Candice standing next to her car in her scrubs.

CANDICE (cont'd)
Man, I haven't been by here in years. How are you doing?

BELLE
I'm fine.

CANDICE
Wanna lift?

Marissa approaches. Belle sees her.

BELLE
It's cool.

She turns to walk away.

CANDICE
Belle? Come on.

Belle looks at Marissa.

BELLE
I'll call you later.

INT. CANDICE'S CAR - DAY

Candice smokes a cigarette as she drives in silence.

CANDICE
I'm only married to your uncle, so technically I don't owe you shit.

This gets Belle's attention.

CANDICE (cont'd)
But you and I have never talked, and I just want to tell you I agree with you in a lot of ways.

Belle's listening.

CANDICE (cont'd)
Look, I'm not defending your mother's choice here, it's a very personal matter, but at the same time, I didn't have a husband die on me before the age of 40.

BELLE
She's not the only one who suffered when dad died.

CANDICE
And I can't begin to imagine growing up without my father.

58

They drive in silence.

CANDICE (cont'd)
I know you two were really close.

Belle turns to the window to hide her tears.

BELLE
And now she's trying to keep Josh alive purely for selfish reasons.

CANDICE
And I don't know what it's like having a child that's clinging to life.

BELLE
What kind of life is he clinging to?

CANDICE
Then we should help. Help him.

Belle wipes her tears as she turns to Candice.

CANDICE (cont'd)
Your Mom's feelings of love are more important than your feelings of guilt. I'm not trying to give you a hard time, hon. But as long as he's alive we should do what we can to give him a life. Don't you think?

Belle stares at her without saying a word. It's the first rational talk she's had in a long time.

CANDICE (cont'd)
What? I'm a nurse. What else am I supposed to say.

Candice takes another drag of her cigarette which makes Belle smile through her tears.

INT. HOUSE - AFTERNOON

A slight wind blows around the house on another greyish day when a car drives up to the front.

DR. MILTON (O.S.)
The medial parietal cortex and adjacent posterior cingulate cortex are the brains regions that differentiate patients in minimally conscious state and vegetative state.

EXT. HOUSE - DAWN

Dr. Milton flips through a series of fMRI image of Joshua's brain. He throws a look to Belle as in, "Just go with this."

DR. MILTON
And As you can see here Josh's scans show very little variation between the two areas of the brain.

Joan and Candice sit in the living room listening to the doctor. Belle sits off to the side.

DR. MILTON (cont'd)
Now, there's something else.
(pointing to scans)
Here. These are isolated legions on the ventral portion of the basis pontie or the midbrain.

CANDICE
A tumor?

DR. MILTON
I don't think so. It looks more like a slight hemorrhage.

JOAN
What does it mean?

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - DAY

Josh's head is wrapped in skin-tight skull cap with hundreds of electrodes connected to thin wires.

DR. MILTON (O.S.)
It means there's no reliable way of distinguishing if he's in a vegetative state or if he has locked in syndrome. Basically.

A MEDICAL TECHNICIAN finishes hooking the wires from Josh's head to a machine with a colorful monitor displaying waveforms.

Belle stands at Josh's door watching the technician while listening to the conversation in the living room.

JOAN
Locked in syndrome means he's conscious?

CANDICE
That's right, hon.

The doctor looks at Candice.

DR. MILTON
But it's more likely that he's minimally conscious where he has very limited awareness of himself or his surroundings.

JOAN
So now there's a chance that he understands? That a long way from what you told me last time.

DR. MILTON
I have to warn you. A misdiagnoses between the vegetative state and locked in syndrome is quite common. But to answer your question. Yes, it's possible.

Joan puts her hands on her mouth moved by this new information.

Belle has also taken in the news.

She looks at her brother who stares back with big eyes.

DR. MILTON (O.S.) (cont'd)
The idea is to assess inferences to external stimuli.

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dr. Milton, Joan, Candice and Belle watch as the technician makes some adjustment to the monitor. Colorful wave forms move along the screen.

DR. MILTON
You will ask him a series of questions and the EEG will measure brain wave patterns which we can compare to those created by the control patients.

He hold up print-outs with different waveforms. Each is titled- *Mom, Food, Happy, etc*...

DR. MILTON (cont'd)
We ready?

EEG TECH
Ready.

Joan settles in from of her son. Nervous.

DR. MILTON
Remember, keep the wording simple and within the context of what we talked about.

Belle holds some of the cards in her hand. She is as curious as everyone else. The doctor nods and she hands the cards to her mother.

The first card has the word "*Mom*" written under the waveform.

JOAN
Josh?

His eyes looking up at the ceiling.

JOAN (cont'd)
Do you remember me, your mother?

The wave on the machine is steady when it glitches slightly. It's nothing like the chart.

Joan looks up at the doctor. He nods- points to the cards. The next one reads "*Racket*".

JOAN (cont'd)
Do you remember your tennis racket?

The EEG glitches again. It doesn't match the card on her lap either. Disappointment.

She tries again-

JOAN (cont'd)
Do you remember your room in our house...

Suddenly. Josh's eyes turn to her and the waveform comes alive with a very distinct shape-

Everybody looks up. Joan looks at the "*Home*" card on her lap. It matches. She can't believe it.

Neither can Belle. Josh seems to be present.

The next card represents "*Love*".

JOAN (cont'd)
Do you know I love you?

With Josh looking at her, the shape on the monitor instantly appears but does not match. Was it a fluke?

Joan flips through the cards looking for the shape until she finds it, "*GOD*".

JOAN (cont'd)
God? Love God.

Joan bursts into tears as the image flickers between "*love*" and "*God*".

JOAN (cont'd)
Yes, honey. Yes.

It's confirmed- Josh is conscious and locked into his body.

Candice takes Belle's hand and guides her to embrace her weeping mother. Perhaps the healing process can finally begin.

But as Belle hugs her mother, she catches Dr. Milton in the corner of her eye looking stunned and confused as-

The waveform for "*GOD*" buzzes a few more times.

Belle turns from Milton's stunned face to her mother's blissed out expression. This did not go as planned.

EXT. JOSH'S ROOM - DAY

A hand holding a sponge dips into a pale of soapy water.

JOAN
Thank you for doing this.

BELLE
Sure.

JOAN
Hey, I know that shirt.

It's an Old *Genesis* concert shirt.

BELLE
I think it's yours. I found it in an old box when we were packing.

JOAN
See, I was pretty cool in my day.

Belle brings the sponge over to Josh and uncovers his body.

BELLE
Is it okay if I have a friend sleep over?

Belle registers her concern-

BELLE (cont'd)
It's a girl. You want me to have freinds right?

JOAN
Sure why not. Okay, I'm gonna make some dinner.

After a beat, she leaves the room.

Belle gives Josh a sponge bath in his bed. She handles each of his limbs carefully, passing the sponge over every inch of skin.

And as difficult as it is to watch, it's also a brave act of kindness and tenderness.

First his skinny arms and fingers- Josh eyes her every move.

Suddenly, the EEG machine buzzes with a distinct waveform.

Belle notices it and continues bathing him- his legs and feet.

Buzz- The same wave comes back up across the monitor.

Belle removes his breathing mask and wipes his face.

BELLE
You trying to tell me something?

She puts the sponge in the pale and picks up the cards with all the patterns.

Belle flips through the cards trying to find the matching one- *Mom. House. Love. Food. God. Love*, none of them match until the last one- "*Fear*".

Belle hold up the card next to the waveform- It's identical.

BELLE (cont'd)
Fear? What are you afraid of?

She looks at his face. He stares back. Fear in his eyes.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

The house is quiet. The ground floor is still. So is the upstairs hallway.

INT. JULIET'S ROOM - NIGHT

Juliet is also awake. Staring at the closet door in her room.

JULIET
(whispering)
Is that you? Josh?

VOICE
(Whispering)
Shhh...

Juliet hides under her covers terrified. She slowly looks up again to find-

The closet door is now wide open.

JULIET
What do you want?

VOICE
Come play with me?

Juliet removes the covers and walks in her nightgown towards the open closet- She takes a steps inside.

JULIET
Where are you?

The door slowly closes behind her leaving her in the dark.

She stares hard trying to see something.

JULIET (cont'd)
Josh? I'm scared.

VOICE
Shhh...

She turns around to face-

A HORRIFIC DEFORMED AND ROTTED FACE WITH A TERRIFYING GRIN.

JULIET SCREAMS! IF THIS IS JOSH, SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED TO HIM!

INT. BELLE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Belle lays in bed when her eyes open- Footsteps scatter outside her door.

She jumps out of the bed and goes to the door- Opens it- Looks down the hall.

INT. HOUSE- UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Belle walks to Juliet's room and sees her bed empty.

BELLE
Juliet?

INT. STAIRCASE - NIGHT

Belle hurries down the stairs looking for her little sister.

With everything that's gone on, she's on high alert. Once again she is struck with a chill.

BELLE
Juliet?

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Downstairs, Belle can hear whispering again. She walks towards Josh's room. His doors are open-

BELLE
Juli--

She recoils, hiding behind a wall. A look of horror on her face.

She slowly leans her head beyond the wall to get a better look-

HER MOTHER STANDS NAKED FACING JOSH'S BED. WHAT THE HELL?

Belle tries to hear their whispers when, suddenly-

A SMALL CRIPPLED HAND APPEARS FROM THE BED AND-

CARESSES HIS MOTHER'S BACKSIDE- JOSH IS ABLE TO MOVE!

BELLE GASPS!!

Her mother turns around- Belle hides just in time covering her mouth-

INT. STAIRCASE - NIGHT

Belle runs up the stairs in shock and bursts into her room to see-

RONNIE DEFEO POINTING A SHOTGUN AT HER DOUBLE STILL ASLEEP IN HER BED. BUT WHEN HE SENSES HER PRESENCE, HE TURNS THE SHOTGUN ON HER, REVEALING-

It's not Ronnie, but A HEALTHY JOSHUA!

JOSHUA
What's up sis? Don't worry I'll protect you-

BOOM! SHOTGUN BLAST TO THE FACE-

BELLE WAKES UP WITH A JUMP- HER ROOM EMPTY!

To our surprise, Marissa turns over, half asleep.

MARISSA
What's up? You okay?

Belle sits up in bed looking at the bedroom door which is slightly open to the dark hallway.

BELLE
Did you open the door?

Marissa sits up as well.

MARISSA
No.

SOMEONE WATCHES THEM FROM THE HALLWAY THROUGH THE CRACK IN THE DOOR.

Belle stands up and slowly walks to the door keeping her eyes glued to the crack.

Certain someone is watching her, she's wide awake as she slowly reaches for the door knob.

MARISSA (cont'd)
(whispering)
What is it?

Belle slowly opens the door and hears- Nothing-

She walks over to the banister and looks over- Darkness-

Then laughter. They look at each other--creeped out.

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - DAY

A computer cursor blinks on a black screen monitor.

JOAN (O.S.)
Oh my god. That's amazing.

DR. MILTON (O.S.)
Try again.

JOAN (O.S.)
Do you remember moving here?

The cursor blinks before a single letter comes up- Y.

JOAN (cont'd)
Josh, this is really wonderful.

Joan, Candice, and Dr. Milton stand around Josh who faces an computer screen displaying a keyboard.

JOAN (cont'd)
Doctor, thank you for this.

She sees Belle.

JOAN (cont'd)
Belle come see this. Come say "hi" to your brother.
(beat)
He can say "hi" back to you.

Belle's attention shift's to Josh whose eyes are searching around for her.

Belle approaches- She can't believe it. How is this possible?

But as she comes into his eyeline, Josh becomes more agitated- His breathing becomes heavy and it's almost as if his starting to suffocate-

Belle is overwhelmed with emotion and runs out of the room.

Candice follows.

CANDICE
(to Joan)
It’s okay I’ll talk to her.

She follows her out.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Candice enters the kitchen to find Marissa consoling Belle who is confused and distraught.

CANDICE
Hi.

MARISSA
Hey.

CANDICE
You alright?

BELLE
What’s going on?

CANDICE
What do you mean?

BELLE
How is this possible?

She has no answer.

BELLE (cont’d)
And who bought that computer? I thought we had no insurance?

CANDICE
The doctor brought it. He’s taken a real interest in Josh. He wants to write a paper about Josh for a medical journal.

Belle walks over to the kitchen door and sees Dr. Milton talking to Joan down the hall.

BELLE
He said very clearly that it was impossible for Josh to recover.

CANDICE
You’re acting like his recovery is a bad thing?

INT. SCHOOL LIBRARY - DAY

Belle sits in the library with a series of books about the brain and the human body.

She highlights certain parts- *C1 Spinal cord Injury, paralysis of four limbs, permanent assistance with breathing ventilator.*

She opens another book and flips through the pages until she finds something to highlight- *VEGETATIVE STATE IS IRREVERSIBLE.*

Suddenly- A copy of Jay Anson's book *The Amityville Horror* lands on the table.

TERRENCE
For you. How was your sleep over? Doesn't look like you slept at all.

Belle picks up the book.

TERRENCE (cont'd)
It's what the movies are based on. It's a lot more detailed.

INT. TERRENCE'S MOM'S CAR - DAY

Marissa flips through the Amityville book. Terrence and Belle sit in the front seat looking at Belle's house across the street.

TERRENCE
What about the cold spots?

MARISSA
It's fall and that house is a hundred years old.

TERRENCE
The flies?

MARISSA
I'm sure there are flies and weird smells, and her dog is constantly barking just like in the book. Just like all these other houses. So what?

Belle just listens as the two teens argue about the validity of the house's haunted past. She just stares out the window at the house like a poker player waiting for a tell.

TERRENCE
It's true that a lot of people think it's a hoax. That the Lutzs made all that up to sell their story. The books. The movie.

MARISSA
Plus three other families have lived in the house and they've not seen anything since. Why now?

TERRENCE
What about the house being on an Indian burial ground. That was in the second movie?

MARISSA
That's been in every haunted house movie ever made.

They both look at Belle unsure of what else they can do.

TERRENCE
And your father's not acting differently? Turning into a homicidal maniac?

BELLE
(still staring)
My father's dead.

MARISSA
Nice, Terrence.

TERRENCE
Well your Mom looked like she was gonna kill us a few nights ago. What about your sister? She's not talking to ghosts is she?

Belle suddenly turns to him. That question triggers a thought and both teens turn to her-

TERRENCE (cont'd)
What? Is she?

BELLE
She says she's talking to Josh.

Marissa and Terrence look at each other.

TERRENCE
Has anyone else talked to him?

BELLE
He's started to recover. He can talk through a machine.

TERRENCE
And you don't think it's possible. For anyone to talk to Josh. That's why you were reading that book.

BELLE
I don't know.

Marissa leans in-

MARISSA
I'm sorry babe, but I'm with him on this one. You don't think that's fucking weird?

BELLE
My mother thinks it's a miracle.

Belle has a thought-

BELLE (cont'd)
(to Terrence)
Let's get out of here.

TERRENCE
Where to?

BELLE
Talk to someone who knows about miracles.

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

EXT. CHURCH - EVENING

Belle and Terrence stand outside large wooden doors.

She knocks again- KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

TERRENCE
Maybe he's not home.

She knocks again when she is interrupted by the sound of locks.

Slowly the doors begin to open revealing- Father O'Brien wearing a cloak- Attempting to hide part of his face-

BELLE
Hello father. I'm Belle, Joan's Bergoff's daugh-

PRIEST
Yes, I know who you are. What can I do for you?

BELLE
You came to bless our house the other day.

PRIEST
Yes?

BELLE
I was wondering if anything-

Belle notices his hands are red and covered in blisters.

PRIEST
If anything what?

TERRENCE
I mean you know the history. Did anything weird happen when you were there?

BELLE
Did anything happen with my brother? Joshua?

He becomes increasingly nervous.

PRIEST
I'm sorry but I'm very busy-

He tries to close the door but Belle holds it open.

BELLE
Please. This is important. I have a little sister living in that house. If anything strange happened to my brother, you have to tell me.

He finally turns to Belle revealing- THE LEFT SIDE OF HIS FACE COVERED IN BOILS!

PRIEST
Why don't you ask him yourself.

He slams the door shut leaving them hanging.

TERRENCE
Ask him yourself? Seriously? What kind of priest is that?

But Belle has a determined look on her face.

BELLE
He's right.

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - NIGHT

A finger turns on Josh's computer.

It's the middle of the night and all is quiet.

She stands at his bedside. Takes a deep breath. It's been a long time since they've communicated.

BELLE
Josh?

He's asleep.

BELLE (cont'd)
Josh? Can you hear me?

His eyes slowly flicker open. He looks at her in a daze.

BELLE (cont'd)
Hi. Can you hear me? Does this thing really work?

His eyes move, taking control of the computer arrow. He scans the keyboard hitting the letter- Y.

It makes her smile.

BELLE (cont'd)
It's Belle. Do you remember me?

Beep- Y.

BELLE (cont'd)
I never thought I would ever talk to you again.

He looks at her.

BELLE (cont'd)
I'm really sorry. Do you know that?

Tears well up in his eye and run down his cheeks as he searches for the letter-

Beep- Y.

She touches his hand. They look into each other's eyes. Josh turns back to the keyboard-

Still learning the new tool, he hits one letter at a time. It's not easy-

Beep- H. Beep- E. Beep- L. Beep- P.

BELLE (cont'd)
Help?

She looks at him.

BELLE (cont'd)
Of course. What do you need?

He types again- H.U.R.T.

BELLE (cont'd)
Are you in pain?

Beep- Y. It's what she always feared.

BELLE (cont'd)
Do you want medicine? Pain medicine?

Beep- N.

She realizes where this is going-

BELLE (cont'd)
Do you want to continue doing this?

He looks at her-

BELLE (cont'd)
Living like this?

After a beat his eyes return to the computer.

Beep- N.

Tears now run down her cheeks.

BELLE (cont'd)
Oh, Josh?

She takes a beat before this next question.

BELLE (cont'd)
Do you want me to turn off the machine?

The arrow glides along the keyboard pressing each of the letter-

Beep- Y. E. S.

She leans in- hugs him- both cry in her arms.

BELLE (cont'd)
I can't.

Beep- I. L. U. V. U.

BELLE (cont'd)
(tears)
I love you, too.

Belle stands up and takes a hold of his hand.

BELLE (cont'd)
I'll stay with you, okay.

The first button she hits- *Alarm Off.*

He watches her- A sense of relief overtaking his face.

She reaches for the next button- MASTER-

BELLE (cont'd)
Please forgive me.

She takes a deep breath- A tear falls on the switch as she flips it-

Click- OFF.

She closes her eyes, takes in a deep breath when, suddenly-

JOSHUA GRABS HER BY THE HAIR AND TURNS HER FACE TO HIS. SITTING UP, HIS FACE IS STRETCHED IN AN EVIL, MANIACAL RICTUS-

JOSHUA
(growling)
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GONNA FUCKING DIE, BITCH!

Belle screams for her life as she falls to the floor trying to release his grip.

She sits on the floor stunned. What the fuck was that?!

She slowly stands revealing Josh laying back in his bed frozen as before with his oxygen mask removed-

His eyes are terrified as they jumps around frantically-

Belle approaches the monitor.

HE'S SPELLING THE WORDS "G.E.T. O.U.T" OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

Belle slowly backs out of the room, when-

JOAN
What is going on?!

Belle jumps! She's in utter shock.

Joan walks over to Josh and quickly realizes the life support is off.

JOAN (cont'd)
Jesus. What have you done?

She starts turning the buttons back on but freezes.

Belle is too stunned to say a word.

JOAN (cont'd)
Shhh.

She approaches Josh and listens-

A low guttural breathing coming from his body.

JOAN (cont'd)
He's breathing.

She turns to Belle.

JOAN (cont'd)
He's breathing on his own.

Belle is stunned- It's impossible.

Joan turns with venomous eyes-

JOAN (cont'd)
You see. God is not going to let you kill His child.

Belle is frozen. What is happening here?

JOAN (cont'd)
For he that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
NOW GET OUT!!

Belle runs out of the room as her mother get on her knees next to the bed to pray.

EXT. BLUE SKY - DAY

Back to the beginning of the film. There isn't a cloud in the sky- when a migrating bird slowly enters the frame in extreme slow motion. We are falling again until we are back in real time slamming into the pavement-

SMASH TO BLACK

BELLE (O.S.)
He was always kind of a bully. The popular kid.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

Belle sits across from Terrence and Marissa. She looks tired and stressed out.

TERRENCE
Wait, so you mean there's naked pictures of you on the internet?

Marissa shoves him.

MARISSA
Dude?

TERRENCE
Sorry.
(to a waiter)
Can someone help us please?

MARISSA
So your brother finds out your ex put these pictures of you on the internet and goes to kick his ass.

BELLE
Yep. That's the last time I saw him.

TERRENCE
What happened?

BELLE
He went to my ex's apartment and they claimed he fell off his balcony fooling around, but I know they pushed him. He fell three floors down and shattered his skull and top three vertebrae.

There's a silence between them.

TERRENCE
And you think your brother wanted you to pull the plug?

BELLE
I know my would never want to live that way. Plus, he told me.

TERRENCE
Or you sure that's your brother you're talking to?

The idea is scary and both Belle and Marissa recognize this as a possibility.

BELLE
I have to go back home.

TERRENCE
You're going back after your mom caught you trying to euthanize your brother?

BELLE
I'm going back there because I don't what's in that house. But I do know my sister's there by herself.

She grabs her coat and exits the diner.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Belle stands outside the house gathering the nerve to enter. She walks towards the door.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Belle slowly opens the door and quietly sneaks into the silent house.

She leaves the lights off using only moonlight to move around.

She walks to Josh's room and looks inside. He's asleep.

She notices a wheelchair for quadriplegics next to his bed.

Belle turns her attention to the stairs listening for any sounds-

She notices the lights in the kitchen and heads there.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Belle walks into the kitchen looking for mother- Empty.

She looks outside- No sign of anyone.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Belle returns to the living room and quietly walks to the staircase without noticing-

JOAN SITTING IN A CHAIR IN A DARK CORNER!

JOAN
You have some nerve coming back here.

BELLE
Shit. You scared me.

JOAN
Well you're scaring me.

BELLE
Where's Juliet?

JOAN
She's sleeping. Where else would she be?

Belle stands by the stairs-

JOAN (cont'd)
The last thing I want, Belle, is for this family to break apart. I swear. After all the work and everything we've gone through.

Belle thinks for a beat.

JOAN (cont'd)
Especially now that Josh is getting better.

BELLE
He told me he was suffering and wanted to end it- On the spelling machine.

JOAN
Then why hasn't he told me that?

BELLE
What does he tell you?

Joan doesn't answer-

JOAN
I think you're just feeling guilty about what you did to him and this is your way-

BELLE
I know you're intent on blaming me for his accident, but I'm not going to let you. It's not my fault.

JOAN
You knew him, Belle. You knew when you told him what happened he would go after your boyfriend. You knew he loved you so much that he would do anything to defend you. And deep down, you wanted him to. And you got what you wanted.

BELLE
You can say that to yourself all you want, Mom, but that's not going to cure him. And that's not gonna cure this family.

JOAN
(indicating Josh's room)
You don't think so? You should have a little more faith.

BELLE
A miracle? Really, Mom?

Joan is almost proud of herself.

BELLE (cont'd)
You should have heard what he said to me. Seen his face. It wasn't him. He grabbed me. He was moving and talking, but it wasn't him.

She can't bring herself to say it-

BELLE (cont'd)
You brought us into a cursed house because you thought it would bring back Josh.

JOAN
Of course I did! I would do anything for my children. I would do the same for you or for Juliet. But you're wrong about one thing. It's not a cursed house. It's a blessed house.

Belle stares trying to hide her astonishment. Did her mother move them here on purpose?

BELLE
A blessed house? Children, Mom. Defeo killed four kids and his parents in this house.

JOAN
The people who died here were martyrs.

Belle is shocked-

JOAN (cont'd)
Ever since we moved here your brother has gotten better. This house is God's vessel. It can be a vessel for good if we choose. Not evil.

Belle stares at her mother in total disbelief, watching her as she stands and approaches her daughter- Tears stream down her face-

JOAN (cont'd)
Please. You have to trust me. We can make him better. We can harness this energy to bring him back. Please believe me.

Realizing that her mother is too far gone Belle hides her concern for the time being.

BELLE
I believe you. I do.

They hug, but it's clear that Belle has other plans.

CUT TO BLACK:

VOICE (O.S.)
(Whispering)
Belle?

INT. BELLE'S ROOM - NIGHT

The clock on Belle's night table flips- 3:15.

Belle sits up looks out the window-

The boat house door is opened again. Wind is blowing something fierce. Lighting. A storm approaches.

VOICE
Belle?

She hears it clearer now.

INT. HOUSE- STAIRCASE - NIGHT

Belle walks down the stairs, each step creaking beneath her feet.

She looks in Josh's room- fast asleep. Lightning strikes.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Belle walks into the kitchen. She moves cautiously- Looking behind every wall- Listening to every sound-

She stops in front of the kitchen door- Looks outside- The boathouse doors are still slamming in the wind-

Suddenly, she hears the scattering footsteps coming from upstairs-

She runs back to the staircase.

INT. HOUSE- STAIRCASE - NIGHT

Belle looks up the stairs- Empty.

She turns back to her brother's room and freezes-

JOSH'S BED IS EMPTY!

Belle turns back to the stairs and starts climbing. Slowly. One small step at a time.

INT. HOUSE- UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Belle walks through the hallway and stops at the last flight of stairs-

Lightning flashes as she climbs one step at a time focused on the next landing- Waiting for someone to jump out at any moment.

INT. TOP FLOOR - NIGHT

The quarter window is visible now. Lightning strikes. Thunder.

She moves into the room. It's used as storage. A few boxes still unpacked. She looks around. No one.

Belle moves to the window to look outside in the yard.

But as lightning strikes across her face-

A HUMAN SHAPE CAN BE SEEN IN THE CORNER OF THE ROOM.

Belle stays looking out the window. The lightning flashes again-

JOSH IS STANDING BEHIND HER WITH AND EVIL GRIN AND A HAND OUTSTRETCHED INCHES FROM HER HAIR!

SENSING IT, BELLE TURNS AND INSTINCTIVELY STUMBLES BACKWARDS FALLING ON THE GROUND SHOCKED.

JOSH STANDS ON HIS CRIPPLED, SKINNY AND TWISTED LEGS. LIGHTNING!

Defying reason or logic, he takes a step towards his sister who is too shocked to scream. Frozen as he approaches-

One painful step after the next, when suddenly he stops-

He struggles. Pain replaces the evil grin on his face.

His eye change returning to the eyes she once knew, then-

JOSHUA
(struggling to speak)
Hhh... Hhhel... Help me.

More lightning. Belle is in awe as his face contorts and struggles- Fighting the evil inside.

Then he turns towards the door and exits hobbling away- Not human.

Belle watches as he descends the stairs.

Standing at the top of the stairs, she sees him move along the lower hallway.

INT. STAIRCASE - NIGHT

Joshua's bare twisted feet move down each step one at a time.

Keeping her distance, Belle follows watching his every move. He moves more like an animal than a human being.

He enters his room and she hurries down the stairs not to lose sight of him.

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Josh is on all fours scratching at the floor-

His overgrown finger nails chipping away at the varnish covering the wood floors. What's he doing?

He looks at her. His eyes show FEAR. This is her brother, not the evil, possessed version. When suddenly, his expression contorts again. Suffering. Pain. And the evil smile creeps onto his face.

She watches the clear transformation when-

HE GROWLS AND- RUNS AT HER ON HIS HAND AND KNEES LIKE A RABID DOG!

She backs up. Too late. She screams as he dives, tackling her to the ground-

He tries to bite her neck like a ferocious predator bitting her hands instead as she tries to defend herself.

She screams until- The lights turn on upstairs-

Joshua stops to look up-

JOAN (O.S.)
Who is that?!

Joshua looks back down at his bloodied sister. Smiles-

And goes completely limp falling on the ground next to her!

JOAN (V.O.)
Belle? Is that you?

Belle realizes quickly she will get the blame.

Instantly, she stands and grabs a hold of his shoulders dragging him on the floor towards the bed.

She lifts him up. He’s heavy. She struggle with the weight.

She’s face to face with him- He looks terrified again. But instead of scaring her, it gives her strength.

She uses it to lift him back into the bed, when-

Joan comes through the door-

JOAN
Belle?

Josh is back in bed and under his covers. Belle is nowhere to be found.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Belle slips into the bathroom and locks the door.

She opens the medicine cabinet.

Grabs a pill bottle- empty’s the contents into her hand-

Puts them all in her mouth.

She closes the cabinet only to reveal-

HERSELF AS A BLOODY CORPSE- PART OF HER SKULL BLOWN OFF.

DEAD BELLE
KILL THEM!

BELLE SCREAMS AND JUMPS AWAY FROM THE MIRROR.

She takes a deep breath and returns to the mirror- Nothing.

INT. JOSH’S ROOM - MORNING

Josh is sleeping when Belle enters his room.

She quietly walks over to his computer and begins typing.

We're not sure what she's writing but, she's careful not to wake him. When she looks up-

Juliet is standing in the doorway.

BELLE
Hey sweetie.

Belle walks briskly out of the room and into the kitchen, leaving Juliet in Josh's room.

JULIET
(sing-songy)
Good morning, Josh.

Juliet looks at the computer.

Just then Joan comes down the stairs-

JOAN
Juliet, please go put on some shoes the house is getting colder. What's going on?

JULIET
Can we take Joshie on a walk?!

JOAN
No, sweetie. Joshie is more comfortable in his room.

JULIET
But he wants to! He said!

Joan approaches the computer-

JOAN
(reading)
I would love fresh air. Please take me walk.

JOAN (cont'd)
Oh sweetheart. Of course we can go on a walk.

She kisses him on the forehead-

JOAN (cont'd)
Your uncle and Candice will be here soon. I think that's a great idea.

Belle smiles at her mother, but it quickly fades as she catches Juliet eyeing her. How much did Juliet see?

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Mickey's patrol car is parked in the driveway.

Joan, Mickey, and Candice wheel Josh out of the kitchen and down a new ramp.

Josh looks around nervously.

MICKEY
I got you buddy. Don't worry.
(to Juliet)
Wanna help me, June Bug?

Juliet shakes her head no.

MICKEY (cont'd)
Okay, here we go.

INT. BELLE'S ROOM - DAY

Belle watches from her room as Mickey slides the wheelchair down the ramp arriving on the grass.

CUT TO:

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - DAY

Belle walks down the stairs and heads straight into Josh's room.

She stands over the spot on the floor where Josh peeled the varnish with his nails. She thinks- Walks to the door and eyes the basement door- Back to the room.

Using this spot as a starting point, she places one foot in front of the other- heel to toe- heel to toe. She's measuring- Until she gets to the wall.

BELLE
(Under her breath)
12 Steps.

Belle walks out of the room and looks outside where she can see the family on their stroll.

EXT. HOUSE- BACKYARD - DAY

Joan and Candice walk ahead of Mickey and Josh.

CANDICE
I can't imagine she's trying to hurt him. I would think it's the opposite. It must be hard for her to think he might be suffering. Twins have that special bond, you know. They can feel each other.

JOAN
Then why not accept his recovery? It just kills her to think that I'm right.

Juliet stops walking and focuses on the boathouse-

CANDICE
Honestly, none of us can believe it. It's not just Belle.

JOAN
That's because no one knows him like I do.

Meanwhile, unnoticed by everyone else, Juliet is slowly being pulled towards the boat house.

Josh's eyes are becoming more animated. His chest starting to heave. But it goes unnoticed as well.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Belle retraces her steps from upstairs- Heel to toe- Heel to toe- Heel to toe until she runs out of space.

BELLE
(to herself)
It's three feet short.

She looks up. The wall with the pipe- THERE'S SOMETHING BEHIND IT.

She looks outside through a small dirty basement window- They're still out there- She has time.

Belle looks through an old tool box and finds A PICKAXE.

EXT. HOUSE- BACKYARD - DAY

Back in the yard, Juliet stands in front of the boathouse.

She enters- Behind her the family pushes Joshua further away from the house making it harder and harder for him to breath-

It’s as if, the basement and Joshua’s health are connected somehow.

INT. BOATHOUSE - DAY

Juliet walks slowly along the wooden dock- dangerously close to the water-

She arrives at the end of the dock and looks into the water just as Belle did days ago.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Meanwhile, back in the basement, Belle strikes the old stained drywall with the pickaxe.

She swings again- And Again- Until she uses her hands to reveal a stone wall.

INT. BOATHOUSE - DAY

Juliet leans over the water. Her feet closer and closer to the edge-

She peers into the dark water- Deep and ominous.

Her eyes squint. Can she see something?

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Using her hands, Belle tears away at the brittle dry wall revealing exposing more of the stone wall-

EXT. HOUSE- BACKYARD - DAY

At the same time, Josh’s eyes are going wild. Distressed, he can hardly breathe and his face is turning red.

INT. BOATHOUSE - DAY

Slowly, Juliet crouches down lower and lower to look into the water, when-

LARRY THE DOG COMES FLOATING TO THE SURFACE BLOATED AND DECOMPOSED!

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

BELLE STEPS BACK FROM THE WALL- A LARGE HOLE IN THE STONE WAS PLUGGED UP WITH BRICKS. SOMEONE YEARS AGO HAD BUSTED THROUGH THE WALL AND FIXED IT UP AGAIN!

JUST AS BELLE REALIZES THAT JOSH HAS LED HER TO THE SOURCE OF POWER-

JULIET SCREAMS OUTSIDE- Belle reacts!

INT. BOATHOUSE - DAY

Juliet is screaming at the site of her decomposed dog when Joan, Candice and Mickey burst in-

JOAN
Oh my god. Come here honey-

She embraces the child consoling her while devastated by the site of the dead dog.

EXT. HOUSE- BACKYARD - DAY

Belle bursts through the kitchen door running past Josh on her way to the boat house when she stops on a dime-

She turns to Josh- He is turning purple- Cannot breathe- Dying in front of her very eyes.

She is quickly joined by Joan and Candice-

JOAN
What's going on? What did you do?

Belle just watches her brother dying.

CANDICE
Get him back inside. On the respirator.

Mickey jumps into action, pushing Joshua back towards the house-

Juliet gently clings to her leg.

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - DAY

Joan, Candice, and Mickey lift Josh back into his bed.

Candice is about to place the breathing mask on his face when she stops-

Josh's color has returned and his breathing steadied.

The adults look at each other-

CANDICE
He's stabilizing.

She looks at his eyes. They no longer seem panicked.

Belle stands at the door watching- Trying to figure out what's going on.

Joan see her. Also trying to figure out what's going on- Where was she while all of this was happening?

Joan walks over Josh's bed-

JOAN
How you feel? Can you tell me what happened?

Josh moves his eyes to control the computer but-

Nothing is working-

JOAN (cont'd)
Is it on?

CANDICE
It is. I don't know what's wrong with it.

Juliet looks up at her big sister. She knows.

Candice plays with Josh's computer until she finds the problem.

CANDICE (cont'd)
Here it is. Someone put it on the manual setting. He can't use it that way.

Joan finds this suspicious- She thinks about the last person to be with Josh-

Joan turns to Belle- She's gone.

CANDICE (cont'd)
It should work now.

BELLE (O.S.)
As soon as they brought him back to the house, he was all better.

INT. TERRENCE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Seen though the lens of a video camera, Belle sits in Terrence's kitchen-

BELLE
There must be a circumference around the house that's controlling him.

TERRENCE
It's the house that's keeping him alive.

MARISSA
You're both crazy.

TERRENCE
Remember you though your brother died that night. When he flat-linned?

BELLE
Yeah?

TERRENCE
That's probably when the house took over. You have to get everyone out of that house.

BELLE
And if I do, my brother dies-

MARISSA
That's what you wanted right. To free him?

TERRENCE
That's not your brother, Belle. But whoever is in his body, is gonna try to kill you, and the rest of your family. It's repeating the cycle.

BELLE
Unless...

TERRENCE
Unless what?

BELLE
Unless my mother's right?

TERRENCE
What?

BELLE
What if what's in that room is powerful enough to cure my brother?

TERRENCE
What's in that room has always been evil.

BELLE
In movies. What if she's right and there's something there that can save him.

MARISSA
You're really nuts.

BELLE
I owe it to him.

TERRENCE
And if you're wrong? Which you are.

They all look at each other.

MARISSA
I'm coming with you.

BELLE
Can I borrow one of those?

They turn to see what she's pointing to-

A RIFLE CLOSET WITH THE FAMILY GUN COLLECTION.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Holding A SHOTGUN, Belle walks around the back of the house.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - NIGHT

The bathtub has been retrofitted with a small lift which mechanically lower's Josh into a tub full of warm water.

HIS CHEST IS SCRATCHED UP FROM THE EARLIER STRUGGLE WITH BELLE.

JOAN
It's been a long time. It feels nice, doesn't it?

Josh lays with only his face above the surface.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Belle closes the door behind her in the kitchen-

She moves about the house listening for every sound-

Belle walks through the living room and hears her mother giving Josh a bath-

Belle opens the basement door as quietly as possible and enters-

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Using a flashlight, Belle reaches the bottom of the stairs and heads straight to the stone wall.

She puts the shotgun down and picks up the pick axe.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - NIGHT

Juliet enters the bathroom clutching her stuffy-

JULIET
Mommy?

Joan turns to her and smiles.

JULIET (cont'd)
She's here.

Josh's eyes become agitated- Looking around.

JOAN
I know, sweetheart.

She caresses her cheek.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Back in the basement, Belle hears the water upstairs flowing through the pipes giving her cover-

She swings the pick at the brick wall which cracks easily- its old and moldy-

A couple more swings- The first brick hits the ground revealing a dark space behind it-

Belle picks up the brick and finds the other side is PAINTED RED.

She flashes the light inside the hole- A DEFINITE RED HUE.

The smell, however, hits her hard making her jump back and cover her mouth.

She moves fast and quietly now- using her hands to remove one brick after the next she finally reveals A SECRET ROOM.

Upstairs the water finally turns off.

INT. RED ROOM - DAY

Using the flashlight and covering her mouth with a rag, Belle steps into the-- THE INFAMOUS RED ROOM.

Scanning the light, the air is thick. The walls are covered with faded cryptic writing- Burnt candles- and the source of the smell- Skeletons of small animals-

Across the room a small window shines moonlight exposing a thick, wet layer of black mold beneath it. Nasty.

Suddenly, Belle hears something in the basement- She points the flashlight.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Belle walks back into the basement- Scans the flashlight- Walks to the stairs when she steps in something wet.

She points the flashlight to the ground- A WET TRAIL GOES FROM THE STAIRS TO A DARK CORNER OF THE BASEMENT. JOSH?!

BELLE
(Whispering)
Who’s there?

She’s on high alert and decide to go back upstairs.

She walks to the bottom of the staircase when she sees-

HER MOTHER STANDING AT THE TOP BACKLIT BY THE HALLWAY LIGHT.

Belle starts up the stairs-

BELLE (cont'd)
Mom. Please listen to me. I believe you. Please-

Joan just stands there without saying a word when she suddenly closes the door and locks it.

BELLE (cont'd)
NO. MOM, PLEASE!

Belle runs up to the top trying to open the door.

JOAN (O.S.)
I'm calling your uncle to pick you up before you hurt anyone else.

Belle turns to face the basement- Her face full of fear.

She hears her mother on the phone- Gotta get out of there- She thinks, then-

Climbs back down- SOMEONE WATCHES FROM BEHIND THE WOODEN STAIRS.

She looks for a way out. A noise- She turns the flashlight- Nothing.

She walks past the boiler- Back to the hole leading to the red room-

INT. RED ROOM - NIGHT

Belle enters the red room- The smell is awful- Makes her want to puke.

She walks to the window- Covered in slime- She tries to push it- Stuck for years.

Suddenly she hears heavy gurgling breaths behind her--

She turns around slowly, afraid of what she might see-

LARRY THE DOG! WET, PARTLY DECOMPOSED, RABID, AND UNDEAD! IT GROWLS SHOWING ITS TEETH.

BELLE
(Very steady)
Oh shit. What the... Good boy, Larry. It's me. Good Boy.

SUDDENLY, LARRY CHARGES!

BELLE GRABS A BRICK AND SMASHES THE WINDOW-

THE DOG ATTACKS-

SHE TRIES TO CLIMB OUT- SLIPS ON THE MOLD.

THE DOG BITES INTO HER LEG- SHE FALLS ON THE GROUND- SCREAMING IN PAIN- USING HER OTHER LEG TO KICK HIM AWAY.

THE DOG BITES DEEPER TWISTING AND SHAKING!

PANICKED, SHE GRABS ANOTHER BRICK AND TRIES TO HIT THE DOG WHO IS RELENTLESS.

THEN, SHE SEES THE PICKAXE-

SHE KICKS IT WITH HER FREE LEG, FLIPPING THE HANDLE WITHIN REACH. SHE GRABS IT- LIFTS IN THE AIR AND- SWINGS IT DOWN INTO THE DOG'S BACK.

THE DOG RELEASES HER LEG AND SHRIEKS!

BUT THIS DOG IS UNDEAD AND SWINGS AROUND THE ROOM TRYING TO REMOVE THE SPIKE.

BELLE HURRIES TO HER FEET TRYING TO CLIMB OUT OF THE BASEMENT WINDOW. SHE STRUGGLES TO DO SO. SLIPPING- SLIDING, UNTIL-

THE DOG REFOCUSES ON HER ONCE MORE- HE ATTACKS!

IT'S ABOUT TO BITE WHEN- THE AXE HANDLE WEDGES ITSELF AGAINST A WOOD BEAM- THE DOG FLAILS BUT ITS STUCK JUST INCHES AWAY-

BELLE MANEUVERS AROUND THE CRAZY DOG AND CLIMBS OUT OF THE BRICK WALL RETURNING TO THE OTHER PART OF THE GARAGE-

She turns around when-

Joan slams the butt of the shotgun in her face-

SMASH TO BLACK.

INT. RED ROOM - NIGHT

A trickle of blood flows into a receptacle on the ground slowly filling it to the top-

JOAN (O.S.)
The weaker the body, the stronger the spirit becomes-

The blood comes from a gash in Belle's wrist- Further up, her arms is strapped to Joshua's bed-

Her eyes flicker to life- Joan stands above her-

JOAN (cont'd)
Hi. Sweetie.

Laying propped up on an old bed, Belle finds it difficult to talk- The strap from Josh's EEG headgear digging into her chin- Wires everywhere.

BELLE
I feel sick.

JOAN
It's okay. You wont feel anything soon.

BELLE
I'm so nauseous?

Belle regains consciousness, revealing-

The basement lined with candles and a few lamps, and-

JOSH SITTING IN HIS WHEEL CHAIR LOOKING HEALTHIER- HIS BODY HAVING FILLED OUT-

JOSHUA
Hey, sis. It's good to see you.

BELLE
(groggy)
Josh? What happened to you?

Belle notices the wheelchair surrounded by candles on the floor-

JOSHUA
Don't look so shocked. Mom saved me, you and mom both did.

BELLE
How? It's not-

Belle realizes her hands are strapped to the bed and that she's bleeding!

BELLE (cont'd)
I'm bleeding. Mom?! What is this? Why am I tied down?

Then she sees Larry the dog chained to a pipe looking healthier too- She's starting to put it together!

JOAN
It’s for your own good, honey.

BELLE
No. I feel like I’m going to throw up. Please.

Belle is confused. She sees that the EEG machine is plugged into the head gear on her head and that the machine is plugged into the house.

BELLE (cont’d)
Why am I connected to this, Mom?

Joan points to the EEG screen beeping a single waveform-

JOAN
Look what that says-

She holds up the corresponding card-

JOAN (cont’d)
Its the image of God. It kept repeating over and over again while you where sleeping. You have the most faith-

Joan’s eyes are tearing-

JOAN (cont’d)
I am so proud of you.

BELLE
I don’t understand.

JOSHUA
Your faith in God is healing me. Making me strong again.

BELLE
Please untie me. You’re scaring me.

JOAN
Don’t be scared baby. You have God in you. You’re turning the power of this house into one that heals.

Belle’s eyes turn- She’s in pain- HER FACE TURNING EVIL-

BELLE
Aaah! No. What’s happening.

JOAN
You have to fight the evil temptations- Conquer them-

She comes out of it- Looks at her brother on his wheelchair-

JOSHUA
Mom, look- It's working.

His legs filling out- Becoming stronger- Belle can't believe it- A miracle right in front of her- Or is it?

JOSHUA (cont'd)
I'll be able to stand again soon-

JOAN
By connecting you to the house, we have connected the house to God's power allowing him to perform this miracle.

Belle can't believe she's even entertaining the thought-

BELLE
Then why am I bleeding?

JOAN
The weaker your body, the easier it is for the power to possess you.

BELLE
Who told you this?

Joan smiles.

BELLE (cont'd)
Mom, who?

JOAN
I knew this house was strong from growing up around here. Everyone always said it was evil but I could feel it was more than that. It was only later when I found my faith and realized that God was the creator of all things, that I understood this was his house as well.

Belle is devastated-

BELLE
This was your plan from the beginning. Wasn't it?

JOAN
No baby. I didn't know you would be the key until we moved in. That's when I got the signs.

BELLE
What signs, Mom?

JOAN
From God.

BELLE
God speaks to you?

JOAN
Yes. Through Josh.

BELLE TURNS TO JOSH WHO EYES HER AS IF HE'S SOMEONE ELSE- WAITING TO SEE IF SHE FALLS FOR JOAN'S EXPLANATION- IT'S AN ERIE LOOK WHICH SENDS CHILLS DOWN YOUR SPINE!!

BELLE
Listen to me. Remember when we moved in and Josh had that attack. When all his alarms went off? It was the first night here. Do you remember? Josh flat-lined.

Joan shakes her head- Unwilling to hear the truth-

BELLE (cont'd)
Josh is dead, Mom-

JOSHUA
Does this look like someone who's dead?

BELLE
Someone is talking And it certainly isn't God. Do you hear me? You know that's the truth, mom-

JOSHUA
You've been ignoring the truth since we got here? Mom this is your miracle. Don't let her take me away again-

BELLE
Don't listen to him. He's trying to trick-

JOAN
SHUT UP! BOTH OF YOU! I CAN'T THINK!

Joan sits on an old couch. She's exhausted- Years of bent up agony, confusion, and rage-

JOAN (cont'd)
When your father died, I prayed. I prayed so hard. And what did I get for my devotion? He tried to take Josh.

She shifts- More resolve-

BELLE
But I never gave up. I knew then the lord was testing me.

Belle's face turns into the Maniacal rictus and back to normal-

BELLE (cont'd)
Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves.
That's in the bi- Aaaaahh!

Belle is being possessed! Struggling to keep the evil out-

Suddenly. Josh begins to stand- Surprising everyone-

JOSHUA
Look, mom! I can walk again. You see? It's working.

Joan who is completely enthralled-

JOSHUA (cont'd)
Don't listen to her, mom. She's always hated me. And since when does she recite the scriptures? Such a hypocrite?

BELLE
Shut up, you fuck!! Arrgh!

Josh walks over to her with agony- His legs regenerating slowly-

Joan looks at Belle not sure who to listen to when-

Josh grabs Belle's hand and leans in to kiss it-

JOSHUA
My sweet sister has always had a hard time taking responsibility for herself, hasn't she?

Leaning over to Belle and away from is mother, JOSH GIVES BELLE THE MOST DEVILISH GRIN CLEARLY SHOWING HE'S NOT JOSHUA!!

BELLE
Get off me- Arrrgg!!

BELLE FLOPS AROUND THE BED UNTIL SHE FINALLY LAYS BACK COMPLETELY POSSESSED- TIED DOWN- EYES BULGING- BREATHING GUTTURAL- AN ANIMAL WAITING TO STRIKE!

JOAN
What's happening to her?

The doorbell rings- The dog starts barking-

The spirit exits Belle in a flash, returning her to her normal face but completely disoriented-

BELLE
Mom? Where?

Her recuperation weakens Joshua who is forced to hold his mother to stay standing. He leans on his mother to keep from falling on the ground-

JOSHUA
Arrgh. You can't let anyone see us. Tell whoever it is to go away-

Joan looks confused-

JOSHUA (cont'd)
DON'T BE WEAK OR YOU WILL LOSE US BOTH-

Joan walks him to his chair before grabbing another leather strap-

JOAN
I don't want anymore fighting between the two of you.

Joan gags Belle and runs upstairs-

BELLE
NO. NO.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Joan comes out of the basement door running into Marissa-

JOAN
What are you doing here?

MARISSA
I'm sorry, Mrs. Bergoff. I've been knocking and I got a bit worried.

JOAN
Why would you be worried?

She notices the blood on her hands.

MARISSA
Is Belle here?

JOAN
I don't know.

MARISSA
She said she was coming home.

Joan smiles, again like an innocent child-

JOAN
Did she?

Marissa can tell something is wrong and tries to push her way past Joan-

MARISSA
Belle?! Are you-

But as she glances past her she stops suddenly- Her eyes widen- She looks down- JOAN HOLDS A LARGE KNIFE HANDLE WITH THE BLADE PLUNGED SIX INCHES IN HER MID-SECTION-

JOAN
Stay away from my family. You little slut.

MARISSA
(terrified)
BEEEEELLE!

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

BELLE
Marissa?

Belle is back to herself, when she spots Juliet hiding in a corner- She gives her big eyes- nods her over-

JOSHUA
I was just trying to defend you. I did it for you-

Belle looks at him sitting in his chair- Then back at Juliet.

JOSHUA (cont'd)
And as soon as I got hurt, you were the first one to want to let me go.

Juliet understands and steps out of the shadows-

JOSHUA (cont'd)
There you are, June Bug. Come here and give me a hug.

But Juliet has seen the other side of Josh and walks straight to her sister- Removes her gag-

JOSHUA (cont'd)
What are you doing, Juliet?

The dog starts barking- yanking on it's chain-

BELLE
Don't listen to him, baby. It's not him talking? Now untie me.

JOSHUA
No! Stop! Mom will be very angry with you.

Juliet unties the straps around her hand.

Josh struggles to stand.

JOSHUA (cont'd)
Do you want to kill me too, Juliet?

BELLE
(to Juliet)
Now go hide, okay sweetie?

Juliet nods as Belle unstraps herself-

JOSHUA
You're a whore just like your sister. You know that?

BELLE
GO!

Juliet runs up the stairs- Belle removes the EEG headgear- setting off alarms, but also- DISCONNECTING HER HERSELF FROM THE HOUSE/SOURCE OF EVIL! AND-

FORCING THE EVIL BACK INTO THE WEAKER SIBLING- JOSHUA-

JOSHUA
You shouldn't have done that!

Belle runs to the stairs when-

EVIL JOSH JUMPS HER FROM ACROSS THE ROOM-

JOSHUA (cont'd)
AAAHHH!!

Pinning her on the ground-

His evil face drooling inches from hers- Teeth pointed- Pure Evil about to bite-

Belle tries to grab a loose, red brick just out of reach-

Across the room, the dog barks furiously- Pulling on the chain gradually dislodging the pipe.

BELLE GRABS THE BRICK AND SLAMS IT AGAINST JOSHUA'S FACE RELEASING HIS GRIP.

She struggles to climb the stairs, when-

The dog breaks the pipe dragging its chain as he enters the stairs after Belle-

BELLE
JULIET!

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Belle runs to the front door which instantly locks itself-

BELLE
JULIET?! WHERE ARE YOU?!

She tries to open it but it wont budge- She turns-

The dog comes out of the basement and charges for her-

Belle steps out of the way as the dog slides on Mickey's blood and slams into the front door-

He continues chasing her from room to room- Windows slamming shut as she approaches each one- Doors slamming in front of her until-

She loses him in a dark hall- all is quiet-

SUDDENLY, THE DOG JUMPS OUT OF NOWHERE- BELLE RUNS TOWARDS THE KITCHEN- THE DOG ON HER HEALS UNTIL SHE FINALLY-

SMASHES THROUGH THE KITCHEN DOOR-

EXT. HOUSE- BACKYARD - NIGHT

Belle lands in a shower of glass in the backyard- Gasping for air!

The dog is coming- It bursts through the door-

Regaining her strength- She runs towards the boat house.

The dog is on her heels- She's almost there, but-

She trips- Turns on her back to watch the dog lunging at her-

SNAP! The dog's chain gets caught in a sprinkle stopping him in mid air.

He barks pulling on the chain- trying to reach her when he suddenly start deteriorating- coughing- weakening.

Belle watches as the dog turns back towards the house- THE SOURCE KEEPING HIM ALIVE-

It tries to walks back to the house, but the chain keeps him in the yard- Too weak to struggle, it sits on the grass- Then lays down to die-

Belle stands above the animal watching it decompose back to its natural state- An rotted carcass.

She looks up at the house knowing exactly what to do-

She rips her shirt, wraps it around her wrists and limps back to the house, where-

A storm erupts- Lighting and thunder inside the house-

Belle stands in the kitchen doorway looking inside- Steps in- Vigilant-

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Belle walks into the living room- It's cold and windy- Lightning strikes allowing her to see-

Joshua confronting Joan who stands in front of Juliet protecting her- His voice deep and hoarse-

JOSHUA
Give me the child-

JOAN
You said everyone would be okay.

JOSHUA
Everyone who counts. Every one who's strong enough. I need her to complete what we started

JOAN
Not her. She's weak.

JOSHUA
She is strong like her sister. Unlike you or your husband?

SUDDENLY, BELLE WRAPS THE DOG CHAIN AROUND HIS NECK AND GOES RUNNING HOLDING THE OTHER END-

In an instant, Joshua is swept off his feet and dragged on the ground towards the kitchen door.

Belle runs as hard as she can almost reaching the door, when-

Joshua holds out his arms and grabs a passing doorway-

Stopping Belle on a dime and slamming her to the ground-

The chain has dug deep into her fingers slicing them open-

She looks to see Josh holding the other end of the chain, when- He pulls it as hard as he can-

RIPPING TWO OF HER FINGERS CLEAR OFF! BELLE SCREAMS IN AGONY.

Joshua turns his head to see Joan scrambling to get upstairs-

BELLE
NO! GET OUT OF THE HOUSE!

Too late- Joshua is after them like a wild predator-

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Joshua catches up to Joan who stands in front of Juliet-

JOAN
Please. Don't.

JOSHUA
But, Mommy. Do you want me to die?

JOAN
Please. I'm begging you to stop.

Joshua has the chain in hand-

JOSHUA
(mocking)
Please. I'm begging you to stop.

He rushes at them- They turn to run but he wraps the chain around her neck- then quickly around the banister-

He smiles- Her eyes bulging with fear- They both know what happens next-

Joshua shoves his mother over the railing-

SNAP! Her neck breaks has she hangs dead in the middle of the house!

Juliet scream! Runs for the next floor- Josh follow-

INT. TOP FLOOR - NIGHT

Josh arrives on the third floor and sees Juliet standing in front of the quarter window- Terrified.

INT. QUARTER ROOM - NIGHT

Josh kneels down to face Juliet-

He is barely recognizable- Transformed into a hideous evil version of Josh.

He caresses her face gently with his skinny deformed hand and long finger nails, when-

A shotgun comes to rest on the back of his head- He slowly stands up-

JOSHUA
It's too late-

Belle looks down to see Juliet gasping for air- BLOOD SPURTING OUT OF A SINGLE HOLE ON THE SIDE OF HER NECK!

BELLE SCREAMS-

BELLE
JULIET!! NO!!

Juliet slides to the ground as Josh stands in her pure blood- transforming before our very eyes- Stronger and stronger.

JOSHUA
Once her heart stops beating, I will be whole again-

Belle fights the overwhelming emotions and grips the shotgun-

JOSHUA (cont'd)
YOU DID THIS! REMEMBER? THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!!

BOOM! SHE BLASTS HIM IN THE CHEST- SENDING HIM EXPLODING THROUGH THE QUARTER WINDOWS AND OUT OF THE HOUSE WHERE HE PLUMMETS THREE STORIES DOWN.

Belle cradles her little sister placing her hand over her fatal wound.

BELLE
(crying)
I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I have to stop him, OK. I have to stop from coming back in. Please live. Please.

AS LONG AS JULIET LIVES, BELLE KNOWS SHE STILL HAS A CHANCE TO PREVENT THIS EVIL TO FIND PERMANENT RESIDENCE INSIDE JOSHUA-

Juliet grabs her hand and nods.

INT. HOUSE- BACKYARD - NIGHT

Outside, Josh has been weakened but is still strong enough to stand. He walks back through the kitchen door when-

BOOM! BELLE APPEARS FROM THE DARK BLASTING THE SHOT GUN-

JOSH IS PROPELLED BACKWARDS INTO THE YARD- HE STANDS AGAIN-

BOOM! ANOTHER SHOT TO THE CHEST!

Further and further from the house, its becoming harder for him to stand up. But he does once more- Barely-

Belles walks up to him- Battered- Determined. She hold up the shotgun at close range-

BELLE
Maybe in another 40 years-

BOOM! THE FINAL SHOT TO THE HEAD SENDS JOSH'S BODY WAY BEYOND THE HOUSE'S REACH.

She stands over him and, like the dog, watches has his body returns to it's natural state- part of his face and body returning to the crippled state he was in when he arrived to the house-

EXT. HOUSE - DAWN

Like at the beginning of the film, a light rain drizzles on the windshield-

Belle sits in the back of a police car much like Ronnie Defeo did 40 years ago- Her hand in a bloody wrap.

Mickey has his arm around Candice as they talk to an office.

Candice looks at Belle who is lost in her own thoughts.

A series of forensic photographs recap the evenings murders-

JOAN- HANGING FOR THE UPSTAIRS BANISTER-

MARISSA- CROUCHED IN A CLOSET- STABBED IN THE HEART-

THE DOG- BLOATED DROWNED-

AND JOSH- A QUADRIPLEGIC TORN APART BY SHOTGUN BLASTS.

DETECTIVE (O.S.)
She even dragged her crippled brother out to shoot him in the yard like the dog.

Belle looks out the cop car window across the street where-

Terrence stands in his black trench coat looking back at her.

DETECTIVE (O.S.) (cont'd)
Then she tried to blame his. Said he's the one who did all of this. He's been bed ridden for the last two years. Can you believe it...

The car drives away- Terrence looks up at the house when he suddenly notices-

JULIET STANDING IN THE QUARTER WINDOW WAVING GOODBYE- SMILING. PURE EVIL STILL LIVES THERE.

SMASH TO BLACK